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**THE  
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**AMERICAN SOCIETY**

FOR COLONIZING THE

**FREE PEOPLE OF COLOUR**

OF THE

**UNITED STATES.**

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**WITH AN APPENDIX.**

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**WASHINGTON:**

PRINTED BY DAVIS AND FORCE, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

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1819.

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List of Misses & H. H.  
of Penn. H. H.

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David English, *Treasurer.*

*AT a special meeting of the American Colonization Society, held on Saturday, the 21st of November, 1818, at the City Hotel, city of Washington :*

*Resolved,* That the thanks of the American Colonization Society are due to Ebenezer Burgess, for the ability, zeal, and fidelity, with which he has performed the duties assigned to him as one of the agents of the Society, deputed to explore the western coast of Africa.

*Resolved,* That the American Colonization Society cherish an affectionate respect for the memory of their deceased agent, Samuel J. Mills, and deeply regret the loss which they have sustained by his untimely death.

*AT the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society, held on Saturday, the 9th of January, 1819, in Dr. Laurie's Church, city of Washington :*

*Resolved,* That a committee of three be appointed to lay before the Congress of the United States, or any committee or committees which may be appointed by either branch thereof, the information which has been collected through the means of this Society, showing the practicability of the object of its institution; and respectfully, but earnestly, to solicit the countenance, aid, and support of Congress in the accomplishment of that object.

*Resolved,* That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President and Board of Managers, for the zeal, intelligence, and ability, which they have evinced in the management of the Society the past year; and that the report of the Board of Managers be printed.

# REPORT.

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THE Board of Managers of the *American Society for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States*, have had the satisfaction to receive within the past year, from various sources, a mass of information calculated to confirm the hopes, and to aid the future counsels of the Society.

The recent mission to Africa, which ended in the return of Mr. Burgess to the United States on the 22d of October last, leaves no further room to doubt that a suitable territory, on the coast of that continent, may be obtained for the contemplated colony, at less expense than had been anticipated. (A.)

The answer of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, president of *The African Institution*, to the letter of the president of this Society (B.); the reception of the missionaries in England; the attention of Lord Bathurst, secretary of State for the colonial department of the British government, to themselves as well as to the object of their mission, (C.); their hospitable entertainment by the officers of the colonial government at Sierra Leone; and the respectful notice taken of the views of the American Society in the Annual Report of the *African Institution*, coupled with a knowledge of the high character of the personages who direct its

proceedings (D.) ; are a pledge of the further co-operation of the benevolent men of England, and, it may be hoped, of all Europe, in the accomplishment of the just and humane purposes of the American Society.

While this pledge furnishes to any colony which the Society may plant on the coast of Africa, an assurance of future security from maritime attack, the friendly treatment which the missionaries experienced from the native tribes and chiefs of the country, their general character and condition, together with the earnest desire which the far greater part of them expressed for the immediate establishment of such a colony among them, afford a like security against every other external injury which might have been apprehended.

All these pleasing anticipations are yet further strengthened, by a reference to the past history and present condition of the rising colony of Sierra Leone. With the exception of an attack made on it by a French squadron in 1794, during a period of actual war between Great Britain and France, but disavowed, nevertheless, by the government of the latter, this colony has never experienced hostility from any European power. And such, at that time, was the friendly disposition of the adjacent African tribes towards the colonists, that, when dispersed by a superior foe, the unhappy fugitives sought and found an asylum in the hospitality and kindness of their neighbours.

In one solitary instance only, as far back as eighteen years ago, have any portion of the natives, subsequently to this invasion, manifested a different temper by actual hostilities; and the disorderly rabble, who then attacked the colony, were beat back with great facility.

After having liberated more than nine thousand negroes, with scarcely any other aid than a single armed brig, it has inspired with awe the remorseless slave traders who yet infest the neighbouring coasts, and induced the native tribes who inhabit them, to believe its power is invincible.

And what is most worthy of remark, although under the political government of a few white men, so inconsiderable in number as to leave the security of the colony to rest almost exclusively on the arms of its coloured population, its existence has never been shaken by domestic insurrection.

For a further account of the population, commerce, and state of improvement, of this interesting colony, the managers refer to the annexed papers. (E.)

Continued assurances have been received by the board of Managers, in the last year, of the readiness of many of the free people of colour in the United States to avail themselves of their contemplated asylum, whenever a suitable territory for its erection shall have been procured. These have proceeded from the most enlightened of this class of persons, comprehending individuals engaged in all the occupations of civil life, dispersed

throughout the United States, and in sufficient number to form the basis of a respectable colony. To these assurances have been added the repeated declarations of several proprietors of their readiness to emancipate the whole; or a part, of their slaves, whenever a suitable abode in Africa shall have been provided for them, upon condition that they shall repair to it.

When the Managers add, that they have purposely avoided all appeals to these motives which ought to, and doubtless will, hereafter, induce the free people of colour to exchange political slavery and moral degradation for independence and honour, these assurances are calculated to remove all doubt of the facility with which they will make this exchange, when they can effect it, not only with the permission, but the assistance also of their former masters.

The humane forbearance of the Managers and friends of the American Society to excite in the breasts of the free people of colour, hopes which might be hereafter disappointed, has deprived them, in some instances, of the means of correcting misconceptions of the origin and views of the Society. It has been suggested to be an invention of the southern proprietor to rivet the chains of servitude upon his slaves, as if the circumstances which accompanied the origin of the Society, the character of its members, and their solemn and reiterated declarations did not forbid so unfounded an imputation. It would not be more uncandid to



ascribe to them a design to invade the rights of private property, secured by the constitution and laws of the several slave-holding States, and to proclaim universal emancipation!

If, as is most confidently believed, the colonization of the free people of colour, will render the slave who remains in America more obedient, more faithful, more honest, and, consequently, more useful to his master, is it proper to regard this happy consequence to both, as the sole object which the Society hope to attain? Is it a substantial objection *to this*, that like every other effort to enlarge the stock of human happiness, it enlists in its favour the selfish, as well as the disinterested, affections of the heart? The inference deducible from all such suspicions, serves only to demonstrate that the success of the wise and charitable purpose of the Society, is assured by the irresistible appeal which it makes to all the powerful sentiments of the heart—the most sordid and degrading, as well as the most benevolent and exalted.

The result of the address made by the deputies of the Society to the citizens of Baltimore, during the last summer, when the Managers were compelled to raise, by extraordinary exertions, additional funds to defray the expenses of their missionaries in Africa, is a sufficient proof that all such objections have only to be openly resisted in order to be overcome. (F.)

The efforts of the Managers to enlarge the funds of the Society have not hitherto extended beyond their immediate wants; and these have arisen, almost exclusively, from the mission to the coast of Africa. From the report of the deputies appointed to collect subscriptions, in the past summer, it will be seen that the generosity of the city of Baltimore, aided by a liberal contribution from the Auxiliary Society of the county of Frederick, in Virginia, precluded the necessity of applying for pecuniary aid to Philadelphia, New-York, and Boston, as they at first designed. An opulent and public spirited member of the Auxiliary Society of Baltimore had advanced, on loan, in the outset of the mission, a sum which was then deemed sufficient to defray its expenses. This has been since reimbursed. It is probable, however, unless the regular income of the Society shall be promptly enlarged by the admission of new members, that a recurrence to further subscriptions may be required to fulfil the engagements of the Managers to their missionaries. A debt is due to both, most faithfully earned by their joint and useful labours. As regards one of them, it is consecrated by his untimely and lamented death; which imposes on the Managers the melancholy office of recognising its obligation in the person of his surviving father.

Notwithstanding these manifestations of public liberality, the Managers would be unfaithful to the trust reposed in them, if they did not intimate to the Society, that the progress of any colony which

they may plant on the coast of Africa, will be precarious and unsteady, unless it be nourished by the resources, as well as countenanced by the authority of the Federal Government.

The President of the United States awaits, it is believed, the sanction of Congress, to fulfil the request, in which so large a majority of the General Assembly of Virginia long since united, to obtain for that State herself, debarred by the federal constitution from instituting a separate negotiation, a territory in Africa, on which to colonize such of her free people of colour as may choose to avail themselves of such an asylum, and such of her slaves as their masters may be willing to emancipate.(G.)

The memorial presented to the House of Representatives, in behalf of the American Colonization Society, at the 2d session of the 14th Congress, gave rise to a favourable report from the select committee to which it was referred. Having been submitted to the House at an advanced period of that session, which terminated, of necessity, on the fourth of March, the report remained unacted on, amidst the mass of unfinished business. Upon its renewal, at the last session of the present Congress, the memorial was retained, by the committee to which it was referred, in expectation of important intelligence from the missionaries of the society, then on the African coast. The committee, however, concurred in a favourable report, which was presented to the House of

Representatives towards the close of the session. In consequence of the adoption of a rule which gives to the unfinished business of that session a priority to any arising after the first week of the present, a decision upon the report may be confidently expected in the course of this month.(H.)

One of the grounds assumed by the select committee, in support of the object of the memorial, is derived from its tendency to facilitate the execution of the laws of the United States prohibiting the importation of slaves, in a manner consistent with the spirit of the laws themselves, the long established policy of the southern States, and the genius of the Federal Constitution. It is well recollected, that as soon as Congress acquired the constitutional power of prohibiting the importation of slaves, which was on the first of January, 1808, they followed the example of the several States, in imposing heavy penalties upon the authors of this inhuman traffick. The first section of the act of the 2d March, 1807, declares that, "after the above period, it should not be lawful to import into the United States, or the territories thereof, from any foreign country, any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, with intent to hold, sell, or dispose of such person as a slave, or to be held to service, or labour." The act subjects not only the American vessel, employed in violating the law, to *condemnation*, but "every person engaged in building, fitting out, equipping, loading, or otherwise preparing or sending out such vessel, know-

ing or intending it to be so employed, to the forfeiture of *twenty thousand dollars*." A subsequent section makes it "*a high misdemeanor* for any person to transport, from any foreign country, and sell, any person of colour, within the jurisdiction of the United States." Upon conviction, it subjects the offender to "*an imprisonment* of not less than *five* nor more than *ten years*, and to a fine not less than *one* nor exceeding *ten thousand dollars*." The *purchaser* or *seller* of any such person, so imported, who shall knowingly purchase or sell the same, is subjected to a *forfeiture of eight hundred dollars* for every person of colour "*so purchased or sold*." To this section the following extraordinary proviso is annexed: "*that the aforesaid forfeiture shall not extend to any seller or purchaser of any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, who may be sold or disposed of in virtue of any regulation which may be hereafter made by any of the legislatures of the several States, in that respect, in pursuance of this act and the constitution of the United States.*"(1.)

The authority of the State legislatures, to which the proviso refers, is conveyed to them by a clause of the section of this act next preceding the last. It declares, that "*neither the importer, nor any person or persons claiming from or under him, shall hold any right or title whatsoever to any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, nor to the service or labour thereof, who may be imported or brought within the United States or territories*

thereof, in violation of the law, *but the same shall remain subject to any regulations, not contravening the provisions of this act, which the legislatures of the several States or territories, at any time hereafter, may make, for disposing of any such negro, mulatto, or person of colour."*

A recent act of the legislature of Georgia will show what construction has been given to this authority. (K.)

The second section of the act empowers the governor *to sell for the benefit of the State, any negroes, mulattoes, or persons of colour, brought into it in violation of the laws of the United States ;* and sales, to a considerable amount, have, accordingly, been made, and their proceeds paid into the State treasury !

The Managers would be unjust, however, as well as ungrateful, if they past unnoticed the last section of this act, which provides, " that if, previous to any sale of any *such persons* of colour, the Society for colonizing free persons of colour within the United States, will undertake to transport *them* to Africa, or any other foreign place which they may procure as a colony for free persons of colour, at the sole expense of the society, and shall likewise pay to his excellency the governor all expenses incurred by the State since *they* have been captured and condemned ; he is authorized and requested to aid in promoting the benevolent views of the society in such manner as he may deem expedient.

The Managers heard, with deep regret, of the execution of the second section of this act, in the course of the past year, without having it in their power to avail themselves of the recognition of the existence and object of the American Society in the sequel of the act, and afford relief to the unfortunate beings whom violence and fraud had torn from the bosom of their native country, and a defect of the laws of the United States has consigned to hereditary slavery in the bosom of this. Surely, when the authority granted to the several States, by the act of Congress which had been recited, is thus exercised, it is without due regard to the limitations which accompany the concession. So far from such an exertion of power being "*in pursuance of the act of Congress,*" it is in direct contravention, not only of its positive and express provisions, but of its very spirit and title. It is an act "*to prohibit,*" not to *admit* the "the importation of slaves." To contend that the consignment of innocent and injured foreigners to perpetual slavery is, "*in pursuance of the constitution of the United States,*" is to cast a reproach on that instrument which it does not merit.

But if the legislature of Georgia have overstepped the authority, with which the act of Congress invested them, in a case, to their judgment, it is presumed, of apparent necessity, a necessity which they sought to avoid, it becomes the government of the United States, which created the evil, to provide for it, an adequate remedy. None can be

found, short of a restitution of those injured people, to the country from which they have been iniquitously torn, nor can such restitution be so effectually accomplished in any other mode, as by their colonization upon the western coast of Africa, in conjunction with the free people of colour of the United States, who may voluntarily seek the same asylum. In the distribution of free colonies along the coast of Africa frequented by the slave ships, and the employment of a suitable naval force to guard its peace, the Managers believe that the most efficient, if not the only adequate remedy, will be provided for enforcing the existing laws of the United States against the African slave trade.

The act of Congress of 1807, to which the Managers have already referred, expressly empowers the President of the United States, *shall he deem it expedient, to instruct and direct the commanders of the public armed vessels, to seize and bring into any port of the United States, all ships or vessels thereof, whenever contravening the provisions of the act; and subjects the vessels to condemnation, as prizes taken from an enemy in open war, and their commanders to exemplary punishment.* All that it remains in the power of Congress to superadd is the labour of colonization. (L.)

The Managers sensibly impressed with the inefficacy of the present laws against this abominable traffick, and firmly persuaded that its entire abolition is essential to the success of the leading objects of the Society, offer no apology for having



dwelt so long upon this branch of their report, nor for having enlarged its appendix, by the admission of several documents, that manifest the extent to which this cruel and iniquitous trade is still pursued by citizens of the United States. (M.)

If so many of the best interests, not only of these United States, but of mankind in general, are to be promoted by the colonization of Africa, may not the hope be confidently indulged, that the wisdom and patriotism of the general government will countenance the hitherto imperfect efforts of the American Society.

The numerous, respectable, and concurrent authorities, to which the managers have resorted in their endeavour to acquire all the knowledge which is attainable of the western coast of Africa, have augmented their desire to liberate its wretched but artless, docile, and amiable inhabitants, from the chains of slavery and superstition in which the oppression and ignorance of so many ages have fast bound them. In the climate, soil, productions, and general health of this much injured country, there is every inducement to a zealous prosecution of the experiment which the Society have begun. (N.)

That a colony of the free people of colour of the United States may be planted and protected on the western coast of Africa, at little comparative expense, can no longer be questioned. Should it prosper in its future growth, the extent of the blessing to which that prosperity may lead, as

regards the civilization of Africa, the happiness of the free people of colour, and the reduction of the number of slaves in America, no human sagacity can either foresee or compute. It is the duty of man to obey the divine will by labouring to achieve all the good within the compass of his limited capacity, and to trust with humble but zealous confidence, for the success of his efforts in the superintending providence of God.

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# APPENDIX.

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## (A.)

*Abstract of a Journal of the late Rev. Samuel John Mills,  
written while in Africa.*

Ship Mary, off Cape Verde,  
Thursday, 12th March, 1818.

WE left London on the 2d February, and on the 7th sailed from the Downs. For eighteen days we encountered head winds and strong gales, and made slow progress. On the 25th we had a distinct view of Cape Finisterre, in Spain. On the 3d of March we passed Madeira, and, on the 6th, Palma, and other Canary islands. We expect to see Cape Verde to day, and to anchor in the river Gambia to morrow.

While on the voyage we have been chiefly employed in reading books which treat of the people, climate, soil, and productions of Africa. We hope our visit to this country, which is so imperfectly known, will add much to our knowledge of it.

At 4 P. M. we exulted at the sight of Africa, and began to draw, with our pencils, imperfect sketches of the coast, the eminences, trees, &c. Cape Verde is high, open to the sea-breeze, and verdant in appearance. The two eminences are called the Mamelles. The cape terminates with islands of rocks.

The mouth of the Senegal is about 100 miles northeast of Cape Verde. The island St. Louis, belonging to the French, lies nine miles up the Senegal, and has a mixed population of five or six thousand. It is valuable as a military and commercial station, to command the trade of that great river.

As we passed south of the Cape, Goree presented itself to view. This island, which belongs to the French, is little better than a barren rock, about three-fourths of a mile in circumference, with a population of four or five thousand. We saw the houses, vessels in the harbour, and the flag at the fort. It is a place of resort for European invalids, while on the coast.

Gambia, Friday, 13th March.

Early this morning we began to enter the noble Gambia, between Cape St. Mary's and Banyan Point on the right, and Sanguomar, the Bird Islands, and Barra Point, on the left. The bay is 12 or 15 miles wide, and the mouth of the river between Barra and Banyan Points is six miles wide. Several canoes are fishing in the bay. The natives use their paddles with adroitness. The weather is very pleasant, the thermometer at  $68^{\circ}$ , and the sun obscured by a hazy atmosphere.

At 12 A. M. we anchored near the village St. Mary's, situated on Banyan Point. Capt. M. of brig Success, who left London a few days before us, and some English gentlemen of the village, soon made us a visit. In the afternoon we walked about the village. It is an infant settlement, commenced only two years ago. The governor's house, the barracks, and a few other houses, are tolerably well built; most of the others are constructed of very slender materials, just sufficient to afford a shade from the sun, and a shelter from the dews and rains. The people were cheerful, and generally employed in some kind of labour. Some were unloading goods; some burning shells for lime; and some at work in the carpenters' and smiths' shops. We stood some time to see a company of soldiers go through the manual exercise. They were mostly Africans, above the ordinary stature, well formed, and neatly dressed. They appeared to be quite expert and intelligent. The military force of the place is about 100 men. A few pieces of cannon, mostly dismounted, are arranged along the beach. There is no fort or block-house. Notwithstanding the exposed state of the settlement, there is no fear of assault from the native tribes. The number of Europeans is about thirty, and the population of the village is already seven or eight hundred. Trade is the soul of the colony: this will increase annually, as the trade of the whole river will concentrate here. The spot does not invite to agriculture, and there are none in the settlement whose interest and dispositions incline them to it. The officers attend to the civil order and safety of the colony; the merchants hope to amass a fortune and return home. There is, as yet, no attention paid to literary or moral instruction; hence, the internal improvement of the place will be very slow, unless some humane society afford their aid.

Gambia, Saturday, 14th March.

We made our respects to the commandant, and became acquainted with most of the Europeans here. They gave us several facts respecting the slave-trade, which is now re-

newed by the French, at the Senegal and Gorce, to a great extent. Some hundreds of slaves have been smuggled away in canoes and small vessels, by night, even from this river and the parts adjacent, within a few months.

We walked out from the settlement two or three miles. Most of this space, overgrown with wild grass, resembled a prairie of Illinois or Missouri. The herds of cattle, which abound in this vicinity, become very tolerable beef by feeding on grass alone. We saw marshy spots, where the tide had sometime flowed, encrusted over with salt. We measured an *Adansonia*, (monkey-bread-tree,) which was 40 feet in circumference.

This settlement claims only a small tract of land, for the use of which there is an annual allowance of a small parcel of goods to the king of Combo. This man is well spoken of, and is said to be averse to the slave-trade, which cannot be said of many of the native kings.

The expedition under Major Wm. Gray, destined to explore the Niger, embarked from this place ten days ago. It is composed of two hundred men, of whom about fifty are Europeans, and the others are African soldiers. They have several camels and mules, and much baggage. The expedition proceeded up the river in boats and vessels to Kayee, about 400 miles, and will thence proceed by land. I fear they have not chosen the best season of the year, as the rains are expected in two or three months. It is reported that the Bambarans will oppose the expedition.

James' Fort, on a little island, twenty miles up the Gambia, was an important station when the slave-trade was extensively prosecuted. It is now an insignificant place, being occupied only by eight or ten disorderly soldiers, who are sent thither from St. Mary's, as a punishment.

There is a small French establishment at Albreda, in the kingdom of Barra, on the north bank of the Gambia. The principal articles of export from this river are ivory, beeswax, and hides.

This is a noble river and flows through a luxuriant country.

Gambia, Monday, 16th March, 1843.

We embarked in brig *Success* for Sierra Leone, leaving the *Mary* to unlade a part of her cargo. We hope to arrive there in four or five days. It would have been very pleasing to us to have gone up the Gambia a few hundred miles. But our time is invaluable to us before the rains, and we hasten to that part of the coast which our instructions require us to survey.

At St. Mary's we saw captain Lloyd, a friend of the lamented Park. He trades chiefly at Vintain. Another interesting person was 'Thomas Joiner, a native African. He was a son of a prince of some distinction, who lived about six hundred miles up this river. When a boy, he was kidnapped and sold in the West Indies. He was afterwards redeemed by an English captain, who knew his father. He was well educated in England, and restored to his country. He is a man of good character and habits, and has acquired property and influence. He has just returned from England, where he left two sons for an education. He says that he shall buy a brig the next year to import his own goods. Will not some of our American people of colour be fired by this example? They might fit out vessels to trade to this country, which would enable them to ascertain its valuable productions, and to survey parts of the coast. Such an intercourse they would find much to their advantage. This will most naturally lead to settlements in this country.

The more we learn of Africa, the more confident we are that the plan of the American Colonization Society will eventually succeed. We obtain increasing proofs of the fertility of the soil, and ascertain a greater variety of the productions of the country. If the slave trade, that mother of abominations and source of woes unutterable, can be annihilated, Africa will revive and assume a respectable rank among the nations of the earth.

Sierra Leone, Sab. 22d March, 1818.

At 9 A. M. we are sailing into Sierra Leone river, which is about ten or twelve miles wide. The mountains rise in irregular ridges and peaks, one beyond another, and present a grand and verdant appearance.

At 11 A. M. boats and canoes came to us from the town. We anchored below to wait for the next tide. The town has the appearance of a neat and pleasant village. For health and commerce, its local situation is admirable. It is too hard and hilly for agriculture.

Several villages are in sight. The church on Leicester mountain is in full view, and aids us much in our devotional thoughts on this sacred day.

The altars on these mountains, which the natives had dedicated to devils, are falling before the temples of the living God, like the image of Dagon before the Ark. The time is coming when the dwellers in these vales and on these mountains will sing hosannas to the Son of David. Distant tribes will learn their song. "Ethiopia shall stretch forth the hand unto God and worship."

Sierra Leone, Monday, 23d March.

We are sorry to learn that Gov. Macarthy is absent on a visit to the Gambia. We made our respects to the commandant, chief justice Fitzgerald, and the council at the government house. We presented Lord Bathurst's letter. They said in obedience to his lordship's instructions, it would give them pleasure to take us to different settlements in the colony, to show us the schools, and to render us any assistance in the objects of our embassy. We were grateful, as we should be, and saw the wisdom of our coming by the way of England. We delivered our letters in the colony. Many of the people of colour were joyful to see us. The death of captain Cuffee is deeply lamented.

Sierra Leone, Wednesday, 25th March, 1818.

In the market place this morning, I saw beef, pork, lamb, fowls, fish, and a variety of fruits and vegetables.

We dined with the honourable chief justice, in company with most of the military and civil officers of the colony.

It seems to be generally admitted here, that settlements of the free people of colour of the United States on this coast, will promote the culture of the soil, increase the means of an honourable commerce, and assist in the more complete abolition of the slave trade. But the merchants have fears that the proximity of an American settlement to this place, would injure its trade. Such would prefer a coalition under this government. Others, both in England and the United States, think differently, and consider proximity to Sierra Leone desirable. It will be our interest and duty to aid and improve Sierra Leone, in every proper way. A coalition is generally deemed inexpedient, but the question of proximity will deserve mature consideration.

Sierra Leone, Thursday, 26th March, 1818.

We visited the schools in Freetown. In the male school were about 200 neat, active, intelligent boys, divided into eight classes, under the superintendence of Mr. Horton, whose perseverance and fidelity are entitled to high commendation. We saw the writing of the boys, and heard them read and spell. In the female school were about 100 neatly dressed little girls, many of whom could read and sew. These schools would do no dishonour to an English or American village. There was not a white child in either of them. I believe schools of white children seldom give fairer proofs of good improvement.

The number in all the schools in the colony, including some adults, does not fall much short of two thousand. This is about one sixth part of the whole population.

Sierra Leone, Friday, 27th March, 1818.

In the evening we met the principal members of the Friendly Society. This Society was instituted among the colonists at the suggestion of the late Paul Cuffee. John Kizell is the president. We made a full statement of our object. All appeared to be much gratified. It was not the first notice which they had of our design, as we brought many letters from their brethren in Boston and New-York. It was their opinion that wherever the colony might be formed, it was not expedient to request a large tract of land at first, as the kings might be alarmed lest we should take their country from them. If we can gain footing in an eligible place, there will not be much difficulty in obtaining additional grants hereafter as the land may be wanted. One observed that if a man of great wealth should come and wish to buy one of our houses, we might sell it to him; but if he should wish to buy all Freetown, an alarm would be made at once.

Some of the kings have a suspicion lest those whom they have sold to slave traders should return and revenge on them their wrongs. This fear would be increased if the territory desired was of great extent. One man who was sold from the Sherbro nearly thirty years ago, has lately returned. He openly asserted, that if any person should take any of his family and sell them, he would kill that man without the least hesitation.

We informed the meeting of our design to go down the coast to Sherbro, and wished to know whether they would recommend any of their number who might go with us as interpreters and advisers. It was understood that Mr. Kizell and Mr. Martin would accompany us.

Before we parted, we addressed our prayers to God; to whom the honour and glory of this great and benevolent enterprise will belong, if it is carried into effect.

Saturday, 28th March, 1818.

Monday we expect to begin our tour down the coast, and have been much occupied to-day in making preparations. We have engaged a sloop of 10 or 15 tons, with a captain, five men and a boy, all Africans, at six dollars per day, they finding their own provisions. Mr. B. and myself, with Messrs. Kizell, Martin, and Anderson, our pilot, complete our number. We have laid in some provisions, calculating on an absence of three or four weeks, and have taken some goods with which to purchase additional provisions and to make the necessary presents to the kings and headmen, on whom we may call.



Sabbath, 29th March, 1818.

Setting out at six o'clock in the morning, in company with several gentlemen, we rode to attend public worship at Regent's Town and the Christian Institution. The Christian Institution is a large school for the captured children, established by the Church Missionary Society, and stands on Leicester mountain, three miles from Freetown. Regent's town is two miles beyond Leicester mountain, and has a population of twelve or thirteen hundred, who have been liberated from slave-ships by the Vice-Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone, within two or three years past.

Our horses were quite inferior, not more than twelve hands high. They are usually brought from the Senegal. European horses will not live long in this country. Just out of the town we passed the burying ground, which occupies an acre and a half of land, conveniently situated, and enclosed with a good wall. In less than a mile we began to ascend the mountain: it is steep in some places. The road is good for horses, but not used for waggons or carts. The land along the road is covered with trees, shrubs, pine apple plants, and some wild grass. We passed one coffee plantation, which is productive, and of considerable extent. Near the Institution the land, in one direction, lies fair for cultivation, and has a good soil. The boys who belong to the school have cleared eighty or a hundred acres. This Institution accommodates about 200 children of both sexes, who are mostly named and supported by individual benefactors in England. These are children once destined to foreign slavery, now fed, clothed, governed, and carefully taught in the Christian religion. Assembled in the church to worship God, they are a spectacle of grateful admiration; and their state happily exemplifies the divine origin and holy principles of the religion in which they are taught. Regent's Town lies in a valley, with a fine brook running through it. Some hundreds of acres are cleared by the people. It has the appearance of a new and flourishing settlement. The wilderness buds and blossoms like the rose. Here we saw two hundred children in the schools. On the Sabbath more than 1000 of the children and people were present in the church, neatly dressed, sober, attentive to the reading of the word of God, and uniting their voices to sing his praise.

Monday, 30th March, 1818.

A part of the day has been occupied in taking our departure for our tour down the coast. About 3 P. M. we made sail and beat our way down to Cape Sierra Leone, which we passed before night. As our African captain is afraid of damage to the ship by running in the night, we came to anchor a few miles from the Cape. The high ridges of the

mountains present a pleasing prospect, and the more so, as we know that hosannas are sung to Zion's King upon their very summit. So God has kindly ordered: the chain is broken, and the captive slave is free.

Plantain Islands, Tuesday, 31st March.

This morning early we were in sight of the Bananas. They afford a handsome prospect. We propose to call on Thomas Caulker, the head-man of the islands, who is understood to have influence with Somano, and other kings in Sherbro. The main land is in sight. The ridges run nearly parallel to the coast. Some more inland ridges overtop the nearest. All are covered with trees and shrubs to their summits. Cape Shilling is reckoned thirty miles from Cape Sierra Leone.

The nearest point of the Bananas to Cape Shilling is about six or seven miles. The colonial government of Sierra Leone have commenced an establishment at Cape Shilling, where the high land terminates.

At 9 A. M. we anchored off the Bananas, and went to pay our respects to Caulker. He met us at the landing, and invited us to his house. After we had conversed together some time, and walked about the town, we took our seats in a spacious room, furnished with chairs, tables, etc. Mr. K. presented Mr. C. a few bars of tobacco and powder, and stated to him our character, and the objects of our visit to Africa. He said that we had been sent by the friends of Africans in America, to find a place where a colony might be formed to which the descendants of Africans now in America might resort; and as we were going down to see king Sherbro, we wished to consult with him too, as we knew that he had considerable influence with those on whom we were to call. He said our design was like Paul Cuffee's, whom Mr. C. had known. I then observed that he knew how the people had been carried from this country some hundreds of years past. Many of their descendants were now free. Some had already returned to this country: others wished to return if a good place could be found for a colony, and the kings favoured the plan. Caulker, who appears to be a sensible man, said, he was pleased with our object and wished we might succeed. He thought it would be a very good thing for this country, if a colony could be formed at Sherbro. He said a settlement might be formed as we proposed, on the Camaranca river, which he claimed as his territory; but that large vessels could not pass the bar of the river. We said that on some accounts a settlement further down the coast would be preferred, as the colony of Sierra Leone claimed the north bank of the Camaranca. He said he would send his son and

nephew with us to the Plantains, and to Sherbro, to tell his desire to favour us, and his wish that they would do the same. He charged the young men to tell the kings our object was a good one.

He ordered his table to be set. It was furnished with boiled fowls, and cassada. The cassada resembles, in taste and shape, the artichoke. When coming away, he gave us a sheep, which was about the value of our present to him. He is about forty years of age, and has a large family of wives and children. His house was built partly by a European carpenter from Bance Island. The principal room is about 30 feet by 20, well floored and ceiled. The roof was made of bamboo poles lashed together, and thatched with the boughs and leaves of the same; the roof jutted over so far as to become a rude piazza to keep off the sun and rain. There were twenty or thirty houses of inferior structure surrounding the one now described. The whole town did not occupy two acres of ground, and the trees and shrubs grew close around. The farms for cultivating the rice, cassada, &c. were two or three miles off. The highest point of land may be more than 300 feet above the level of the sea. There are about one hundred inhabitants on the island. The island is reckoned eight miles long, lying in 8 d. 8 m. north lat. It is said to be fertile; it has more soil than can be found about Sierra Leone. The ground is cleared for rice near the top of the highest ridge. The people generally wear few clothes. Caulker's dress was a blue cotton jacket, light coloured vest, checked trowsers, a shirt of the country cloth, a common hat, and a red silk handkerchief around the neck. Near the village stood some large Pullom trees, on one of which we saw 80 or 100 birds' nests of a curious structure. The birds, about as large as the martin, kept up a continual chirping.

We left the Bananas at 12, and arrived at the Plantains at 3 p. m. a distance of twenty miles. George Caulker, head-man of the Plantains, is a nephew of Thomas Caulker of the Bananas, and has spent six or seven years in England, for education. As the surf ran too high for our small boat, we made a signal for a canoe to take us on shore. It was soon along side, paddled by six men.

The head-man received us in a friendly manner, and invited us into his house, which was a very convenient building. We laid before him a small present, and made known the object of our visit. He expressed a fear that the colony would hereafter claim more territory than it ought. Sierra Leone had now become powerful, and had already taken a considerable extent of territory under their direction. He

said the kings would have less objection to an American colony if the people of colour were to govern the colony themselves. They are afraid that white men will take their country from them, but they will not have the same fears of their brethren. We told him that we were of the opinion that the good men, in our country, who sent us here, would be well satisfied to have the colonists govern themselves, if the proper persons could be found among them. If the white people should interfere, and appoint a governor of the colony, it would be only to give it stability and security; and, whatever part they might take at first, they would be looking forward to the time when the people of colour should govern themselves. This view of the subject seemed very satisfactory to him, and he said his sentiments were the same as his uncle's, and should be pleased to have us settle at the mouth of the Camaranca.

York Island, Wednesday, 1st April.

Last night we anchored in seven fathoms water, half way between the Plantains and Sherbro Island. This morning we sailed along Sherbro Island, and as we approached Jenkins we saw the mouth of the Bagroo river, and the highlands in the interior; the former eight or ten miles, and the latter 20 or 25 miles, distant. Sherbro Island is usually estimated at 22 miles by 12, in extent. At 10 A. M. we called at Samo, a town of 20 huts, on the island, half a mile from Jenkins. A canoe took us on shore. Somasa, the head-man of Samo, was not at home. William Ado is the head-man of Jenkins. The brother of Somasa accepted our little present, and heard our words. He said as his brother was not at home, he could not turn one way or the other, i. e. presumed not to express his opinion. We walked about the island, found the water good, and the surface 15 or 20 feet above the sea. Jenkins, or the vicinity, is recommended to us as a good place to begin a colony, with a view to settle on the opposite banks of the Bagroo. Where we anchored, within a quarter of a mile of the shore, the water was seven fathoms deep. In coming from Samo we passed Colmanda, Jamaica, and Campelar. This last place belongs to Mr. Kizell, who bought a tract of about 500 acres for 100 bars in goods, which were paid to king Fara, and a head-man named Rango. It is low, has a few houses, and is said to have a good soil.

At 3 P. M. we arrived at York Island, now occupied by Mr. Anderson, formerly of Bance Island. This island may be two miles long, and one broad, is low, unhealthy, and surrounded with mangroves. The mangroves grow several feet high, and have much the same appearance, at a distance,

as the willows on the banks and islands of the Mississippi. The place where we landed has 10 or 12 huts, and is closely surrounded with pulom, palm, cocoa, banana, and plantain trees, with a variety of other trees and shrubs, which we have not learned to distinguish by any appropriate names. We visited the ruins of an old fort or castle—walls very thick—bricks uncommonly red and hard—stone of a quality not to be found about here—probably built 200 years ago, now partly washed away by the tides.

Bendou, Thursday, 2d April.

This morning we came to Bendou. King Somano has three villages near him, and owns considerable tracts of land in different places. Soon after we anchored, he sent a canoe on board to know who were come. The messenger was told that two gentlemen had come from America to see him. We were pleased to learn that Safah of Chaa was here, as it would be necessary to see him likewise.

At 10 A. M. we went on shore and found king Somano seated in the Palaver-house. This is only a conical roof, supported by posts, leaving an area about twenty feet in diameter. Mr. K. took his seat near the king; Mr. B. and myself nearly in front. Safah soon made his appearance, marching along between the mud-walled cottages, dressed in a silver-laced coat, a superb three-cornered hat, a mantle around his neck hanging nearly to the ground, blue bafta trousers, considerably the worse for wear; without stockings or shoes. Somano was dressed in a common gown and pantaloons, with hat and shoes. Safah is large, has a broad African face, and an inquisitive eye. Somano is rather slender, and has a face less striking: both are nearly sixty years of age. After a full introduction to the kings, we had to shake hands with the men and women, who had collected around to the number of 40 or 50. Some of our party went to the schooner for our present, before the palaver could be opened. Mr. K. left his handkerchief in the chair as a pledge that he would come back. Our present consisted of a piece of bafta, a keg of powder, a few bars of tobacco, and a small jar of rum. The last article Mr. K. was requested to obtain for us, as we were told they would in no case hold a palaver without it; and we have reason to believe our information correct. These people are only children of a larger growth, and we would hope by a temporary conformity, gradually to wean them from their vicious customs. One jar only was first set before them: they contended that there were two kings, and they must have two bottles: nor would they yield this point until a second was produced. The palaver now went on. Mr. K. stated, in a very satisfactory manner, the

nature and objects of our visit: That we came from America, from Washington, the capital of the United States: that wise and good men had agreed to help the black people who wished to come to this country: that the design was a good one, and would promote the best interests of the black people, both in America and Africa: that if they should sell or give tracts of their unimproved lands, the people who came would introduce more knowledge of the arts and of agriculture: would buy such things as they had to sell, and would sell to them such things as they wanted. They listened with attention. We made additional statements, with which they expressed their satisfaction. Safah inquired if we had any book with us. We told him we had. Mr. B. read, and Mr. K. interpreted some parts of our instructions, particularly the article which directs us to visit Sherbro.

During the discussion the kings suggested fears that an American colony would do as Sierra Leone had done, (referring to a war which in the event dispossessed king Thom of the country adjacent to the colony.) Mr. K. defended Sierra Leone, and made the kings submit to the truth of his argument. They said they were younger brothers of Sherbro, and must wait his answer. If we had applied to them for land, they would have given their consent: now they are not able to give an answer, but will send a man to speak their mind to Sherbro. They thanked us for our present, but made no return. Indeed we could hardly have desired their bounty, as they are, and ever will be, poor, while their indolent habits are indulged. They possess much good land, but do not cultivate one acre in fifty, if one in five hundred. The banks of Sherbro bay are low, not exceeding twenty feet above the sea. Some places are occasionally overflowed with the tide, and covered with mangroves. High lands may be seen between the Bagroo and Deong rivers. We are inclined to think the first station should be on Sherbro island, near Jenkins, and the principal settlements on the Bagroo, nearly opposite. Sherbro bay has much the appearance of the Mississippi river between the mouth of the Ohio and Natchez. The islands are numerous. The land on Sherbro island is flat and sandy, but covered with a luxuriant growth of trees, shrubs, vines, pine apple plants, etc. The water is good, though less cold than in more northern latitudes.

During our conversation, the kings named some articles which our people must bring hereafter, if an arrangement be made for land. One wanted a large hat, shoes, etc.; the other wanted a silver-headed cane, clothes, and especially a

black horse tail, furnished with an elegant handle, which is the badge of royalty in this country.

After the palaver was over, the rum was served round in a small glass. Some became merry and noisy. We walked to two other villages on the bank, and returned to the schooner at 3 p. m.

We had not been long on board when we received a troublesome visit from Somano and some of his men. He said he came to pay his respects to us, and it was the custom when the king came on board a vessel, to be treated with rum, etc. We excused ourselves that we were not on board our own ship, and could not treat the king with the same respect as we might in our own country. He left us tolerably satisfied, after being regaled with a bottle of wine, and receiving some pipes for his tobacco; but on shore he complained of our incivility. He has been long acquainted with slave traders, and it would be strange if he supported a different character under the tuition of such men.

Some of his people brought on board some mats, honey, palm-oil, and rice, to trade.

Near the Palaver-house was a little thatched hut, not larger than a spread umbrella, called the witch or devil's house. It was filled with shells, bits of cloth, etc. In walking out from the village, I passed by the devil's bush, a thicket of shrubs and vines nearly impenetrable by any one. If a woman should be found in this bush, she would suffer death according to the law of the Purrah. When we were at the Bananas, I saw a man, who was tattooed, with marks and lines on his face, back, and breast: and inquired of Caulker the reason of it. He said he was what the English would call a free mason, a Purrah, and known to his brethren by these marks.

In this land where altars are erected to devils, we sung the hymn, "Salvation, oh the joyful sound," etc. A number of the natives were present at our evening prayer and behaved well.

Yonie, Friday, 3d April.

Improving the wind and the tide, we crossed the bay six or eight miles to Yonie, where king Sherbro lives. The islands and the main land present a very verdant and handsome prospect.

At 8 a. m. anchored at Yonie, and Messrs. Kizell and Martin went on shore to prepare the way for our interview with king Sherbro and the prince Kong Couber. We may safely trust our friend K. No man's heart can be more ardent for the success of our object, and no man in Africa could probably be so useful to us under present circumstances. After

his return in the afternoon, he gave us the following narrative. He met Kong Couber by the water side, who took him by the hand and led him to his house. He told the prince that two gentlemen, strangers of king Sherbro, had come. They are from America, the city of Washington, and the kings and head men there. They are sent to see king Sherbro, and obtain a place for some black people who are free in that country, and will come to sit down by king Sherbro, if he will give some ground where they may settle. The offer is made to Sherbro, but if he refuses it, the people will be settled in another place. If he gives them a place, it will be a great advantage to his children and people; for these people will bring the arts and knowledge of cultivation, and will establish schools to learn the children. We, old men, must die soon. The children will be instructed and know more than their fathers. These people will make things cheaper and plentier; they will come in quiet, without quarrels and fightings. If our people do bad, there must be a regular palaver and no arms taken up. If your people do bad, the business must be settled the same way. If it be a great crime, I suppose the bad man will be shut up and made to work hard, and no lives taken. If you want to know the truth of these things, you may send some of your sons to America for education, and perhaps some head men to see what these men say is true. To all this, and to each sentence, he said, *hem, hem*.

Not finding the prince disposed to say much, Mr. K. sent Mr. M. for a bottle of wine and a little tobacco. He drank a little of it, and gave the rest to his people. He then sent two fowls on board for our dinner.

The prince then told Mr. K. that all he said was true and good. But he was only a boy, and could say nothing before he saw the king. He could give no answer; he must call all the head men together, and tell them the business, that they might speak their mind, for the country belonged to all the kings and head men. But he would hold a palaver tomorrow and hear what the gentlemen would say.

This prince, Kong Couber, is the son of old king Sherbro. It is a custom of the people, when a king dies, to select a king from another family. While one of another family enjoys the name of king, this prince has the ability to preserve the power in his own hands. He is a man of superior intelligence and skilled in palavers. We shall probably be detained a week at least. It is impossible to foresee the result. We now propose to obtain a pledge that we may occupy some miles square on Sherbro Island opposite the Bagroo, and tracts of land on that river including the mountains 20



or 25 miles up. The country is represented fertile, with very few inhabitants, and especially in the hilly parts healthy. Large vessels may safely come to Jenkins, and there are four fathoms water up the Bagroo.

Yonic, Saturday, 4th April, 1818.

The morning cloudy; the thermometer stands at  $80^{\circ}$ ; the extremes of temperature which I have noticed since I left Sierra Leone, were  $97^{\circ}$  and  $86^{\circ}$ .

The loud and confused cries of the natives in the village, occasioned by the death of one of the women, attracted our attention at an early hour. These lamentations for the dead often continue a considerable time. When the inhabitants of the surrounding villages come into the place where the death has occurred, they commence their cries.

We have ascertained that the account which J. Banna, the African, gave us in London, is correct. He has a brother living in the Gallinas. We have not ascertained whether his father is alive. The rock to which he referred, split into two parts, and one part standing erect, and visible three days' journey off, appears to be an inaccessible ledge, the resort of wild birds. Banna, who expressed an ardent desire to bring his brethren to a knowledge of the truth, may yet be a blessing to his country.

We went on shore to attend the palaver. Kong Couber met us where we landed, in a friendly manner, and introduced us to king Sherbro. He was sitting in the door of his hut, barefoot, with a cap and three-cornered hat on his head, dressed in a calico gown, and some folds of country cloth, with a large silver-headed cane in his left hand, and a horse tail, the regal badge, in his right. He is about sixty years of age. We walked together under a large *cola* tree, which furnished an excellent shade. Sherbro seated himself in a great chair, Mr. K. on his right hand; Couber on a large mat before the king; Mr. B. and myself near the foot of the tree in front: the people, 50 or 60 in number, were seated in a circle, some on mats, and some on the ground; the women and children around the circle behind the men. Some of the people were dressed in gowns, extending from the neck to the feet; some in blankets of the country cloth, wrapped around the body; some, particularly the young, in narrow strips of cloth; while the children were not burdened with any clothes at all.

Our present of bafta, tobacco, &c. was placed on a mat in the centre of the circle. After the usual ceremonies in opening a palaver, our character, and the object of our visit was made known. Good and great men, in America, had sent us to talk to king Sherbro about the children of those African

people, who, in times past have been carried from Africa to America. Some of them are free to go where they please, and some of them think of returning to the land of their fathers. Some people in our country think of helping them, and have sent us to speak with Sherbro and other kings, to see if lands may be given to these strangers to sit down quietly. The people who come, by cultivating the ground, and by a knowledge of the arts, will increase the necessities and conveniencies of life. We come as messengers of peace and good tidings—no arms in our hands—wish no war. If the kings consent to our wishes, and the people obtain a quiet settlement here, we think they will establish schools to instruct all the children. They will bring the book of God with them; and when you are able to understand it, we hope it will make you more happy while you live here, and after you die. What word will king Sherbro send back to the people in our country?

Parts of our instructions were read, with many additional observations, and the whole was carefully interpreted, as we read or spoke.

Kong Couber, who managed the whole business on their part, replied, all you say is well, very well: but, said he to Mr. K. you say you called on Caulker: why did not Caulker send his present to king Sherbro? David Caulker answered, his uncle was poor, and had nothing in his hand to send when they came away. But, said Couber, Caulker ought to have sent something to his father. These men were sent to king Sherbro, why did they call on Somano and Safah before they came to me? We told him, it was convenient to us to call on them as we came down; and no disrespect was designed to Sherbro, as we were not minutely informed of the rank of the kings, or the customs of the country. How would you like it, said he, when a table was set for yourself, that your child should sit down before you and you eat afterwards? But why did not Somano and Safah come and speak their mind to Sherbro? Tasse, Somano's deputy, said, that king Somano sent him to hear what Sherbro would say, that he might know what answer to give to the strangers. All this was unsatisfactory. It was concluded that no answer could be given until Safah and Somano came. Tasse was sent to call them.

The palaver lasted between three and four hours. Despatch in business is what African kings know nothing of. They will talk around a subject for hours without coming to the point.

In the evening, the natives renewed their lamentations for the dead, with dancing, beating on a drum, etc. The music

is dull and monotonous. When a king, or head-man dies, they make much parade. D. Caulker says, that during the cry for old Caulker, the people came from all the country, and drank twenty puncheons of rum.

Mr. K. is a second Paul Cuffee. He has a good mind and considerable knowledge. His writings discover him to be a man of sense and worth. He has a good heart, and no one can be more anxious for the temporal and spiritual welfare of Africans, and their descendants. He has enlarged views, and believes with the fullest confidence, that the time has arrived, when the descendants of Africans abroad shall begin to return to their own country. His mind relies on the promise of God, "Ethiopia shall soon stretch forth her hands unto God." He says, if we can fix on a proper place for a colony, our people may come out by hundreds and thousands, and we need not fear the consequences, only sending some men of education and piety to be their conductors and guides. Africa is the land of black men, and to Africa they must and will come. It is at present a wide and fertile wilderness; but it may be made to bud and blossom like the rose. As for land, he says, it belongs to Africans abroad, as well as those now in this country; and if they are disposed to return, land they must and shall have. They have not forfeited a right to the inheritance of their fathers, by being carried by force from their country. The good people in America have only to help them to get back, and assist them a year or two, until they can help themselves. Then if they will not work, the fault is their own. They certainly will not freeze nor starve. Let any class of the people of colour come, only give us a few who will be good leaders of the the rest. He urges the plan of colonization, among other reasons, on the ground, that it will prevent insurrection among the slaves—remove some bad men who will not have the same opportunity to do mischief here as there—bring into this country some good men, who will shine as lights in this dark world—give an opportunity to masters who are disposed to release their slaves, and thus promote a gradual emancipation—provide a home for many oppressed free men, and confer infinite blessings on this country. Mr. K. thinks the greater part of the people of colour, who are now in America, will yet return to Africa.

Yonic, Sabbath, 5th April, 1818.

Called on Kong Couber at his thatched cottage. Mr. K. told him it was our sabbath, devoted to the service of God in christian countries, when God's book was read before the people. He answered, all people should be glad to hear God's book—it was the best book—God's palaver was the

old and good palaver. I stated to him the belief of good people in America, respecting the creation of the world, the sinful state of mankind, and the way of salvation by Jesus Christ. I referred him to the blessings which the christian religion confers on the persons and nations who embrace it, and contrasted the state of the American and African people, noticing even the necessities and conveniences of life which we enjoyed and of which they were destitute. I told him our most precious comforts were derived from the love of God and an obedience to his commands. I spoke of the future judgment, when we must all appear before God, to give an account of the deeds done here in the body, when, as our conduct had been good or bad in the sight of God, we should receive a sentence of approbation or condemnation; that, though the body is laid in the grave, the soul lives, and will hereafter be united with the body, etc. etc. I urged the importance of worshipping God and not devils; that God, who was the Possessor of the world, would be angry with any people who erected altars to devils, and would visit them in judgment; that the devil was only a creature, and had no more power than God gave him. I told him all in christian countries were not good people; he had seen many from America and England who were bad men. Mr. K. named perhaps a dozen foreigners with whom Couber had been acquainted, who were slave-traders, and bad men, who did not prosper, but died poor and wretched, often leaving their children cast upon the world friendless and neglected. He said that the afflictions which some of the natives suffered, were the judgments of God for their sins: here the leopard comes and, sometimes, drives the people away from a town; a shark or an alligator catches a boy, and you say he was killed by a witch, and go and sell a whole family into slavery. Such things were not known in England or America.

Kong Couber listened with a serious countenance and fixed attention. I could not but believe that he was impressed with a conviction of the truth of what was said. Mr. K. told Couber that he had been in Sherbro about twenty years, but he never knew two so good men come to it on so good an errand.

We learn that the young men in this and the adjacent towns are in favour of the contemplated colony. They think it will be a good thing for the country, and make them know more. The consent of the kings will probably be obtained for lands.

Since Mr. K. has been in this country, he has saved five or six persons from death; some condemned for witchcraft,

and some for crimes they never committed. Some of these were nearly dead by the excessive quantities of *red water* which they had been compelled to drink. He has sometimes paid 50 or 100 bars to save one from these superstitious murderers. He has also rescued 15 or 20 persons from foreign slavery, sometimes by interposing his authority, but more commonly by purchase. He speaks of ———, a head-man of vile character, who is engaged in furnishing slaves for the ships now at Gallinas, about 50 miles down the coast. It is asserted that seven or eight vessels are now lying off that river, waiting for cargoes; one of which unfurls the American flag, armed with twenty guns, and belonging to ———, who professes to be an American citizen. It is high time for the American government to guard against the violation of their laws, at least by American citizens, and to interpose their authority to check this barbarous traffick.

Yonie, Monday, 6th April, 1818.

Safah and Somano have not arrived. We have been some miles towards the Shebar, and called at several places on the island. The ground is ten or fifteen feet above tide-water; the soil is sandy; some clear spaces of two or three miles, are covered with wild grass and some few palm trees; a cassada field, well fenced, promised an abundant crop. Mr. M. who walked without shoes, complained much of the heat of the sand.

We called at one place, where were five or six women, sitting near their huts, under the shade of a cocoa tree. All were at work; one was spinning cotton on two sticks, according to the custom of the country; another was making a basket; another weaving a mat, &c. Near a dozen little children were playing around, or sleeping on the sand in the shade. A man soon came up, accepted a few leaves of tobacco, and gave us some cool bamboo wine. It is very refreshing and pleasant to the taste, though not esteemed healthy in large quantities.

We stopped at two or three islands in the bay, not more than half a mile in extent, low and covered with mangroves. We shot a few birds, and made some unsuccessful attempts at fishing.

Mr. K. has spent a part of the day with the king and people. He thinks we have a fair prospect of obtaining lands, both for a commercial town or towns, on the coast, and more extended settlements in the interior. We have been afraid to attack the superstitious customs of the people, while our negotiations were pending; but they have always listened to us with attention, and Mr. K. says they are pleased with

the idea that our people will build churches for the worship of the true God, and will teach the children to read the words in God's book.

Mr. K. conducted our evening worship, and prayed earnestly for Africans, their descendants in foreign lands, the Colonization Society, their agents, &c. &c. He does not allow that this plan originated in America, but insists that it had its origin in heaven; and he has much greater confidence than the Managers of the Colonization Society, that their plans, if pursued with prudence and vigour, will be completely successful. He has great influence in Sherbro, owns considerable tracts of land here, and is acknowledged by the natives to be a head-man of the country. The districts of country on which we are fixing our thoughts, are recommended by a number of persons as the best for our objects on this part of the coast. They have good water, rapids in the rivers for mills, and a soil suited to rice, coffee, cotton, &c. We can see distinctly, as we lay off Yonie, the high range of mountains to the right of the Bagroo, perhaps twenty-five miles distant.

We have no intelligence from Safah and Somano. We must wait with patience on these people. Some years ago, a destructive war raged between Caulker and Cleveland, in which most of the Bullom people were enlisted on one side or the other. Sherbro was for Cleveland, Safah and Somano were for Caulker. A cessation of arms was effected by a governor of Sierra Leone, but his early death prevented the consummation of the treaty, and mutual jealousies have existed ever since. They have not seen each other for years. Sherbro wishes to improve this opportunity to bring them together. As the country is common property, one dares not move, until he knows the mind of the rest.

Yonie, Tuesday, 7th April, 1818.

Mr. Martin, D. and R. Caulker, and one of Sherbro's men, were sent on an embassy after Safah and Somano, and forbidden to sleep before they returned.

We have had much conversation on the organization and government of the proposed colony. The natives need not be feared. They are not numerous, have few arms, timid in disposition, jealous of each other, and broken up into small, independent, elective governments. There is little reason to fear a general combination among them, and their strength would be small if they should combine together. If the Sierra Leone colony should continue favourable, and throw no obstacles in our way, that will keep the native people in awe. Should our settlement prosper, it will in two or three years be fully competent to defend itself without aid from

our country; and previously to that time, a single armed sloop or brig, sent to execute the abolition laws, would give to our settlements perfect security. If the people were troublesome, fire a big gun out in the bay, and they would all fly to the bush, and not an individual be found.

Great attention should be paid to select a proper person for governor. Mr. K. is not free to express his opinion decidedly, but thinks it may be best for the first few years to have a white governor, a man of considerable age, and great moderation and prudence. If, however, a Paul Cuffee could be found among the people of colour, who was disposed to come out to this country, it might be well to appoint him governor: in this case, great care should be taken to select men of good character for the first colonists, and some white men of firm integrity might properly come with them as judges and counsellors.

Sherbro island has no cattle or horses. The goats and sheep thrive well and grow fat. Domestic fowls are quite numerous. There are on the island wild hogs, a species of deer, porcupines, monkeys, guinea-hens, pigeons, parrots, and a great variety of birds. Rice, corn, cassada, yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, plantains, cocoa nuts, oranges, limes, etc. are found here; also coffee, indigo, and cotton. There are many medicinal roots and plants, and woods, barks, and leaves for colouring, known to the natives. Fish are said to be numerous, and of a good quality.

Mr. K. brought some cattle from the Kittam country to this island some years ago, which grew large and fat.

Somano and Safah arrived to-day; but another circumstance has occurred, which will delay our negotiations: one of Kong Couber's wives died this morning, and the cry for her may prevent his taking a part in the council for some days.

Yonie, Wednesday, 8th April, 1818.

We learn that some consultations respecting the dead, will put off any palaver to-day. As our presence will not be required here to-day, we propose to sail down to the mouth of the Shebar, which may properly be considered an outlet of Sherbro sound, about eight miles from Yonie. We anchored off Bohol, in three fathoms water, about two hundred yards from the shore. Bohol is a mile from Shebar, has thirty-five cottages, one of which, belonging to Lewis Tucker, the head-man, is sixty feet by twenty, built in the usual style.

We presented to the head-man a bottle of wine and a little tobacco. He knew and approved the objects of our visit to this country. He said we were all brethren; some of

the head-men of the country (including himself) were the children of Europeans or Americans, and it would be strange if they should drive away their brethren of whatever colour, especially as they wanted such things as the country did not produce, or they knew not how to manufacture, which our people would bring them.

We walked across the point to the beach, against which the surf beats with great violence and a perpetual roar. We could see ten or fifteen miles towards Gallinas. The coast appeared low, covered with vegetation and lined with a beach of white sand. The whole peninsula is sandy, covered with pullom and palm trees, shrubs, etc. We saw fields of cascada. We walked around the point to the mouth of the Shebar. It is one mile wide. The bar is semi-circular, making a circuit of three or four miles. It has an island in the middle; the best channel is on the Sherbro island side, having three and a half and four fathoms water at full tide. Schooners and brigs have come into the Shebar, but the attempt is hazardous. There are nine fathoms in some places within the bar. We were anxious to cross the bar to ascertain the soundings, but could not find a pilot. In the rainy season, the south-west winds raise the waves very high.

We returned to anchor, off Yonie, before dark. The dance begins. Near the town is a thick grove, called the devil's bush, from which they profess to believe the devil makes his appearance occasionally in the evening, during the dance. His approach is known by frightful noises, now resembling the whistling of an elephant, and now the roaring of a lion. The poor women and children are obliged to scamper into their houses, and keep clapping their hands, until the devil is gone. Then the dance is renewed. This ceremony is a part of the Purrah system; the great secret of which is said to be, to keep the women in subordination.

Yonie, Thursday, 9th April, 1818.

The kings meet this morning for consultation. An additional present is necessary. Patience may almost have her perfect work on the dispositions and hearts of those who wait on men so slothful in business and so eager to receive the tribute of strangers.

I am not certain but Mr. Caulker, of the Bananas, would consent to receive some of our people on his island. It is a very pleasant place, has good water, and high land, and is open to the sea breeze. It produces, or is capable of producing, most of the articles found in tropical climates. It is above eight miles long and three broad, six miles from the main land. There is one strong objection, however, that the Sierra Leone colony lays some general claim to the



islands, though Mr. C. does not acknowledge the validity of the claim.

The kings have been some hours in friendly consultation. They would not have embraced each other at this time, had not our visit and the mediation of Kizell brought them together. They have settled past difficulties, and are consulting on the subject of our application. They engage to see us and express their mind to-morrow.

We wish to ascertain, first, whether they will promise to the American society or government, tracts of land, eligible, and sufficiently extensive, where our people of colour may settle; and, secondly, on what conditions such tracts of land may be purchased or occupied. Should we succeed in these respects, we shall expect them to engage to favour and support the colony, so far as may be in their power.

Yesterday, when Mr. B. and Mr. K. were on shore condoling with Kong Couber on the death of one of his wives, Couber said, referring to us, may the Lord bless you, and as you came to this country with good wishes, may you find good things. This appears to express confidence in our character, and approbation of our objects.

The climate of the Bagroo country we may presume will be healthy, from its vicinity to high lands or rather mountains, which are distinctly seen from this place, and appear to be only a few miles from the bay. They are open to the sea-breeze. They give rise to many brooks and springs, and the soil is believed to be fertile. The quantity of rice exported from the Bagroo river to Sierra Leone is very considerable, with some ivory, honey, wax, palm oil, etc.

Large ships may safely come to Jenkins, opposite to the mouth of the Bagroo, and vessels of moderate size may pass up the river.

Yonie, Friday, 10th April, 1818.

At 10, A. M. we were informed the kings were ready to receive us in council. We went on shore and found all assembled under the *cola* tree. Sherbro was seated in his armed chair, with Somano on his right hand, and Safah on his left, holding the insignia of his office, the silver-headed cane and the horse tail. Couber sat on a mat before Sherbro. Mr. B., Mr. K., and myself sat facing the kings. After shaking hands with the kings and princes, Mr. K. said, we are come. Couber replied, we see you; we are glad; we love you; we do not hate you; you are our strangers; we love your country; we are friends; we love peace as you do; war is not good; etc. etc. But when you did come from the head-men of your country to Sherbro, where is the letter you did bring to Sherbro? We answered, that we had instructions to visit Sherbro, and cou-

sult with the kings of the country ; but as king Sherbro was not personally known in our country, no letter was addressed to him. He afterwards said, if we had come in our ship directly to Yonie, they could give us an answer ; and asked Mr. K. if his father, the governor of Sierra Leone, did not send him with us. Mr. K. said the governor did not, as he was absent at the Gambia, and besides, the people of Sierra Leone were free men to go where they pleased, without asking their father. I replied, that we came to Sierra Leone, strangers to all the people, and finding our friends Kizell, Martin, and Anderson, to be acquainted with the language and kings of the country, we invited them to come with us. Mr. K. said, he had a letter from a friend in England to assist us ; besides, if strangers of king Sherbro arrive at Sierra Leone, it was not fit to let them stand alone, but come and introduce them.

Kong Couber said, the country belongs to all the kings and people, we cannot sell land, unless we see them all.—We, in reply, urged the necessity of a definite answer, that we might carry their good words to our people ; or go to other kings, who would give us a good answer. We inquired whether the head-men and people could not be assembled before we went away. Couber answered, it was the busy season of the year, rains were coming on, the people were clearing their plantations, and sowing their rice ; the kings were poor, and must work as well as the people ; the people could not be called together, unless there was something to set before them, etc. etc. If we had goods to buy lands and people to sit down, they would call the head-men together. After much palaver and a forcible recapitulation of the objects of our visit, we inquired, what answer shall we carry to our people of colour ? Will king Sherbro receive his children ? Yes, we cannot hate them, we will receive them.

We proposed that we should have liberty to look about their country, and go to other kings on the coast, if we chose, without giving offence : they assented. They proposed that we should write Sherbro's words in two books : leave one book with them, and take the other to our country ; when we came back, or any others, from our head-men, they should bring this book and a letter addressed to king Sherbro : we assented. Couber said, our present was carefully preserved and was at our command. We answered, we freely gave it to king Sherbro and the people. He inquired if we should consider it a payment for land. We said no. These people have so long dealt with rogues, that they cannot, without difficulty, trust honest men.

Yonic, Saturday, 11th April, 1812,

A number of the natives were present at our morning worship, and behaved with great propriety. Afterwards, I stated to them the fundamental truths of the christian religion, and urged on them the necessity of a Saviour for sinners, and the duty of a holy life. They assented to my words, and said, that they and their brethren believed that good men, when they died, went to God, and bad men to hell. Their convictions are less erroneous than their practice. The obstacles to the introduction of religious knowledge into this country, appear not to be so great as in many other heathen lands.

When on shore to-day, we read to Kong Couber the book which we had written according to his suggestion. He said it was right, the kings had agreed to do so, and their word might be relied on. But he said he was alone, and must not say much, lest the kings or people should say he was secretly selling the country without consulting them.

We repeated some of the advantages which might flow from our settlements—the introduction of the spinning wheel, the loom, the plough, machines for cleaning rice, and mills for sawing wood—the establishment of schools, etc.: and endeavoured to convince him that we did not want lands for white men, because we have vast uncultivated tracts in our country, but for such of the descendants of Africans as might improve their situation by such a change. I expressed to him a hope that Africans would hereafter cultivate their lands better, build ships, and go to England and America with their ivory, rice, palm oil, cotton and coffee. We gave him an outline of Paul Cuffee's life, whose father was an African.

Kong Couber offered to send two of his sons to America for an education in any American ship, which might come to Sherbro on this business. It will no doubt have a good effect on the minds of the people here, if any vessel should visit this country to carry into effect the plan of the Colonization Society, that some of the upright and influential men of colour should come out. They could look at the country, and speak for themselves. The natives would see that they were their brethren and friends.

In attempting to obtain lands of the kings, we have had to encounter only such objections as we anticipated. They have had to deal with the worst class of white men, who have often committed the grossest acts of violence and injustice. In 1806, a slave-trader made some presents to old king Sherbro and the people, and allured the old king and some of the princes on board his ship, off the Shebar. He would not

then liberate them, except with much unkind treatment, and in exchange for many slaves.

They know that we are decidedly opposed to the slave-trade, which some of them would relinquish with reluctance. Their convictions and better judgment are against it. They know that the people of colour are very numerous in our country, and it has occurred to them that so many may come as to give laws to this land. This they fear. They appear not to care that their superstitious customs will be disregarded; but on the contrary, have always expressed an approbation that the great God should be worshipped, and their children should learn to read his book. They do not like to say we may have any particular tracts of country, through fear of offence to head-men, who have not been consulted.

Yonie, Sabbath, 12th April, 1818.

The good hand of our God preserves us in peace and safety. The sun does not smite us by day, nor the moon by night. The heat is oppressive only a few hours in the day. The air is cooled by the sea-breeze. The thermometer is lower than often on a summer day in the United States. The atmosphere is hazy or cloudy much of the time.

This morning we sung the psalm, "Sweet is the work, my God, my King;" and I made some observations on the fourth commandment, "Remember the sabbath day."

We have thought much of going into the different villages and, by an interpreter, preaching to the people. But we are unwilling to take any step which might excite their superstitious fears, and lead them to oppose our plans. We came not to establish a solitary church, but to lay the foundation for thousands of churches. We have had conversation with the chief men on the truths of the Christian religion, and have had many of the people at different times to worship with us on board the ship. This has been a quiet day, and much more like a sabbath than many I have spent in christian lands.

Sier Leon, Monday, 13th April, 1818.

Having obtained a canoe and three men to paddle, we set out at 6, A. M. to make an excursion up the river Boom.—The mouth of the Boom is about six miles across the sound, south from Yonie, and about four miles from the Shebar. It is nearly two miles wide, including the islands, which, with slight interruptions, extend along the middle of the river twenty or thirty miles up. On the right bank the ground is flat, sandy, and liable to be overflowed two or three months in the rainy season. This peninsula is narrow, doubtless made by the sand thrown up by the sea. At Sier Leon, James Tucker's town, perhaps twenty-five miles from the

mouth of the Boom, we could distinctly hear the roaring of the waves; so that the river could not be many miles from the sea. The peninsula is well covered with trees, shrubs, and grass. We saw no barren places. Five or six small villages are scattered along the right bank a few miles apart. Some spaces were cleared for rice. Where the rice had sprung up a few inches, it appeared like wheat or oats of rich growth. The water is fresh ten miles up the river, and in the rainy season, when the current is strong, it continues fresh into the bay. The tide is perceptible about sixty miles up the river, and nearly so far the channel is filled with islands, shoals, and bars. The most shallow places are near the mouth. We meet with no person who has sailed up far enough to find it a narrow stream. The principal branch is the Kittam river, coming in from the south. The general course of the Boom appears to be nearly west, but the last thirty miles north-west.

We arrived at James Tucker's at 4, p. m. He expressed much satisfaction on our arrival, and a six pounder was fired two or three times in honour of the strangers. He is a dark mulatto man, about forty-five years of age, was a private individual twenty-five years ago, has now five or six hundred people under him, has raised himself to this power and influence by his activity and success in trade. He was formerly engaged in furnishing cargoes for slave-ships; but now only occasionally sends a few people to the Gallinas, where slave-vessels are now lying.

Opposite to the town is an island extending along the middle of the river, leaving the branch, next the town, about two hundred yards wide, and the other branch somewhat less. This, and other islands, Mr. T. cultivates for rice in the rainy season. I think they would produce Indian corn and other grain, in the dry season. Wild grass grows luxuriantly along the river, and is said to be good for horses and cattle.

Mr. T. is almost the only man in the Sherbro, who has had sufficient enterprize to attempt to raise cattle. Seven years ago, he obtained of an American captain, a small cow, in exchange for two or three goats. He has raised more than thirty head, and has nearly that number now. We saw them, lively, fat, and of a good size. They run in the woods, and provide for themselves the year round. We said to Mr. T. that he merited to wear a crown of gold for his fair experiment in raising cattle.

Sheep and goats are common. Domestic fowls are abundant. Muscovy ducks are seen. Wild ducks abound in the bay and river. Wild hogs are numerous in the woods. The only beast of prey is the leopard.

On our arrival, we gave to Mr. T. half a dozen knives and forks, and some tobacco. He gave us a house to occupy, and killed a sheep for our dinner, and ordered his table to be spread. It was furnished with rice, bread, mutton, cassada, some vegetables, and pure water from the spring. We might have forgotten where we were, if the head wife had not been obliged to come forward to eat the first spoonful, to assure her suspicious lord, that she had infused no poison in the dish. Shame! Indignity! The same custom is universal, when one presents to another bamboo, palm, or other wine. The giver drinks the first glass.

We sat most of the evening, on mats, without the door, engaged in various palavers. Mr. T. engaged to use his influence in favour of our plan. He said, he should like it much, and would give us land on the Boom, if that river was navigable, and suited us; it would belong to the kings to decide whether we should have lands for colonies. When we suggested some of the advantages of our settlements, to the country—such as the facility of obtaining goods in exchange for lands, and in honourable trade, he said, “then we shall not need to catch the people, and sell them, as we have done.” Mr. K. has often told the head-men, that slave-ships could not come here much longer. One of the people asked Mr. T. “how it could be true, that the Americans would let any of the people of colour come back to Africa, when they were so eager to buy slaves?” They appear to consider the slave-vessels, which are now at the Gallinas, American, and they undoubtedly know. We have said very little on the subject of the slave-trade, partly to ascertain their views more perfectly.

When the people returned from their plantations, just at sun-set, laden with baskets and hoes, cassada, fruits, and wood, they came, one after another, to make their respects to the strangers. Water was warmed for us to bathe, before we retired to sleep. There is truly much of the simplicity of patriarchal times among the native Africans.

Boom River, Tuesday, 14th April, 1818.

When we left Mr. T. about 11, A. M. he gave us a basket of rice, and a cotton blanket of the country manufacture, for the American Society. This little present must be remembered and rewarded, if a convenient opportunity should occur. He is very superstitious. Some of his people are often accused of witchcraft, or turning themselves into leopards or alligators, to catch the people. The sentence is often foreign slavery; or the ordeal, the fatal *red water*; sometimes a whole family is involved in ruin: those who escape death by *red water*, are sold into slavery. But it will be im-

portant to secure his influence in our favour, should we hereafter make settlements in the Sherbro, for his connections are numerous. One of his wives is a sister of D. Caulker; another, the daughter of Kong Couber: a brother presides over Bohol, and a sister over another town.

As we went up the south channel, we came down the north. This bank has a very different soil and aspect from the other. The south side is sandy, the north is alluvial mud and clay: the former comparatively light and sterile, the latter rich and productive. The alluvial land is between a quarter and a half mile wide. Some places are cleared for rice. The clearing consists in cutting down a few vines and shrubs, and burning the grass. We called at one place, where the people were scratching in the rice, with a species of hoe and sticks. Poor creatures! the women and children began to hide themselves in the grass and to retreat to the woods, until the voice of Kizell, whom they recognized, called them back. They rejoiced to see us, but could not banish all signs of timidity for some time. We gave them a little tobacco, and our company drank a calabash of their palm wine. The taste of it is not particularly agreeable, but use renders it more so. The high land, beyond this alluvial soil, has a level surface, and is covered with large trees of the original growth. All this tract, on the right bank as we descend, has the appearance of great fertility, and is nearly without inhabitants. This region will answer well for a colony, should no other more eligible place present itself. The banks exhibit a rich and verdant appearance, which continues the year round, and are not exceeded in natural beauty by any river which I have seen in the United States.

At Mr. Tucker's, we became acquainted with Soyarrah, the king of Cotton. He inherits from his father, who was a king, a considerable extent of territory, probably thirty miles by twenty, lying between the Boom and the Deong rivers. It does not extend down to the bay: Somano's land intervenes. This territory is generally dry, level, fertile, and covered with forests of ancient growth. Soyarrah has only a handful of people. War, slave-trade, red water, and (as Mr. K. says respecting western Africa,) "the curse of God, for their sins and devil-worship," have reduced a considerable population to a few scattered relics. Though suspicious and wary, like most African princes, after so many impositions, he discovered a readiness of apprehension, and a promptness in the despatch of business, which were very pleasing. He promised most cordially, tracts of his land for the settlement of our people, whenever they might come with goods to buy. This man and his offers will deserve attention in any future negotiations in Sherbro.

We arrived at the mouth of the Boom, at seven in the evening. As it was dark, the wind fresh, and the bay wide, we stopped at the little village Runta, and the head-man of whom we hired our canoe, hospitably furnished us with his house. The room and bed-stead was hung around with curtains of mats, curiously wrought. We slept comfortably. We called at this village as we went up yesterday morning. It is a romantic little spot. Twelve or fifteen houses stand close together; a narrow avenue to the bay gives access to the sea-breeze: palm, orange, cocoa-nut, banana, and plantain trees, overshadow the houses. Sugar-canes, cotton shrubs, and cassada plants, grow on each side the path which leads to a few rice fields just behind; then the whole is closely encircled with forest trees and wild vines of the richest foliage. Were it the abode of innocence, it might be esteemed a garden of Eden. The chief man is gaining wealth, and lives comfortably. He will probably be considered a king in the country in a few years.

There are several little establishments for boiling salt, not far off. There is too, a small village, formerly owned by Mr. J. a colonist from Sierra Leone, who died here, a few years ago. Such colonists who have settled abroad, among the natives, though they have gained property and influence, seem not, in the end, to have succeeded well. Perhaps they have too readily adopted the indolent habits, and vicious customs of the people around them.

Sherbro Bay, Wednesday, 15th April, 1818.

At day light, we put our company in motion, and crossed the bay in safety, to our schooner, off Yonie. We went on shore to take leave of Kong Couber. King Sherbro and the second prince, Teng-Bang, were out of town; the one at his salt works, and the other at his rice plantation. Kong Couber inquired with apparent solicitude when we should return. We told him it was doubtful whether either of us would ever return, our country was far off. He said, *we* must return; the people knew us, and there was a good understanding between us and the head-men: if we came back to-morrow in the manner we proposed, the head-men would meet, and the business be settled. We told him it was probable that some people from our country would visit Sherbro in one year; and if we were alive in our country, we would send letters and presents, which would convince Kong Couber that we remembered his kindness. He gave us a goat for our men, and two mats for our fathers in America. He walked along the shore with us, and giving us his hand, said in English, "May God bless you, and give you a good voyage to your country." While we gave sail to our little schooner, he sat



down by the shore, under an orange tree, apparently pensive and melancholy. This prince is conscious of the depressed condition of his people, and the barbarous state of his country. He sighs for their improvement. He has, in times past, complained to Mr. K., that his father did not send him to England for an education; and has almost wished he had been sold as a slave, into America, like Mr. K., if he could only have acquired learning, and lived to return back to Africa. He has told his people, that if we came back to live there, he should drink wine only, and no more rum, because rum turned the head, and made men fools. I am not certain but missionaries of prudence, self denial, and christian zeal, might spend their lives usefully here. There would be no want of children to instruct. Couber, and perhaps some other head-men, may be confided in. Serious obstacles must be anticipated. Slave-traders have made even savages more vicious. The people are generally idle, superstitious, self-indulgent, and fond of ardent spirits. Polygamy is nearly universal.

At 11 A. M. we anchored off Bendou, and sent our compliments to Somano. We rested a few minutes under the shade of a large orange tree, loaded with oranges of a full size. A lime tree stood near, whose branches were literally bent down with fruit. Somano, Safah, and their people, were assembled in the Palaver-house. The head-woman, or queen, had recently been accused of witchcraft. She had drunk the red-water, and escaped without injury. This proved her innocence. Within a few days, her people had killed an elephant. This is considered a lucky omen, and a testimony of the favour of the gods. Hence, she brought forward a charge of false accusation for witchcraft, and a demand of reparation. This was the subject of palaver. All the people were sitting around to witness the progress of the debate, and anxious about the result. The men who had distinguished themselves in killing the elephant, with their wives, occupied prominent seats. They were dressed and ornamented with more richness and elegance than any I ever saw in Africa.

We had only a short conversation with the kings. Somano expressed his disapprobation of the conduct of Couber in taking upon himself the management of the palaver at Yonie, and in censuring part of his conduct. He said he had as many children (people) as Sherbro. All Caulker's people were his children: to which D. Caulker, to humour the old man, said, yes, he supposed so. Somano gave us a small basket of rice, and two mats. Safah said he was from home, and had not much with him, but gave two large mats. We

parted with the kings and people on very friendly terms. We crossed the bay from Bendou to York island, about six or eight miles, and anchored close in shore in three fathoms water. We engaged a canoe and men to go up the Deong river to-morrow.

Deong River, Thursday, 16th April, 1818.

At 9 A. M. we crossed the bay about five or six miles to the mouth of the Deong, passing two places near the beach, where the people were boiling salt. The shores of the bay, and the islands, are girt around with mangroves. The soil is black mud, liable to be overflowed by the tide, especially in the rainy season. The mouth of the river is, at the least, a mile wide. It enters the bay from the east, and preserves the same general direction about twenty miles, when it flows from the north of east. Like the Boom, the Deong has a series of islands extending up 20 or 25 miles, which divides the river into two channels. We ascended the right branch, which is not so wide and navigable as the left. About ten miles up, we came to land on the right bank, not liable to be overflowed in the rains. Near this, a small stream comes in from the right, which flows along Soyarrah's territory. Here the water in the river becomes fresh. There is a large ledge of rocks in the middle of the river. We directed our men to paddle towards it, to which they were wholly averse, believing that some evil spirits lived there, who would punish their temerity. We laid our commands upon them, when they yielded with reluctance, and threw water into the air with their hands, as if to appease the wrath of these local demons. The ledge is common free stone, of considerable extent, and a few feet above the surface. Mr. K. said, the natives have a tradition, that these rocks have crossed and re-crossed the river, sometimes above, and sometimes below the water, to the alarm and astonishment of all the country.

About sixteen miles above the mouth, the land becomes a little more elevated, with few mangroves, and exhibits a good soil. We passed two small villages; at one of which, belonging to Thomas Tittle, a fair mulatto man, we called. He spread mats for us to sit down, and was gratified to see us. His father was the captain of a slave-ship. At his suggestion, Thomas, in his youth, was sent to England for an education; but on his arrival there, the father was dead, and the African mulatto boy was sent back without an education. He speaks English well, and appears intelligent, but greatly laments the loss of instruction.

This country has seen better days. Its population was once much greater. The ravages of war, and the slave-

trade, are no where more visible than in this river. Towns have been burnt, hamlets are deserted. In these relics of villages, the people salute us as we pass by, and make many inquiries.

On the right bank, about 24 miles up, is a bluff or ridge of land, perhaps forty feet high, extending along half a mile. Near it is a village which has twenty huts, and formerly more than a hundred. This is the most eligible place for a large town, which we have seen on this river. The width of the river does not here exceed 100 yards, though, in some places, one quarter of a mile. About four miles above this, we come to Papurh, James Cleveland's town. We arrived a little after sunset. Mr. C. was not at home. The people seeing two of the Caulker family with us, who are the enemies of the Cleveland family, gave us a very cold reception. We succeeded in obtaining a house to shelter us from the dew, some rice for supper, and some mats to sleep on. The man, at whose house we lodged, has a brother, who was recently condemned, justly or unjustly, for adultery, and sold into foreign slavery. J. Cleveland, the head-man, has had an English education—has considerable influence—has under him four or five towns, and perhaps 500 people. Papurh, the principal town, stands on the island, at the junction of the two branches of the river. It has 30 huts, and about 150 souls.

The river Deong, before it separates into two channels, does not appear to be larger than one of them, about 150 yards across. It is said to flow from the Krango country through the Timmanee. It has a fall of much celebrity about three miles above Papurh, which we were very solicitous to see, but did not think it prudent to do it, without the consent of the head-man. Fame makes the fall at least 30 or 40 feet perpendicular; probably half of that is near the truth.

Deong River, Friday, 17th April, 1812.

At 7 A. M. we left our village, making some little returns to our host, and to the head-woman, and proceeded down the north branch of the river. There is a ledge of rocks of common free stone at the landing place, and another within half a mile, extending quite across the channel of the river. As the tide was flowing up the stream, the rocks obstructing the current, formed rapids. It was not without much struggling and *difficulty*, (whence the name of the village *Papurh*.) that we could force our canoe over them.

We called repeatedly on the right and left bank. Some places are cleared for rice. The soil appears very rich. The native villages are very few and small. About eight miles

from Papurh, on the right bank, as we descend, is a delightful spot for a town. It is near the Deong or Kurhoo mountains. The river is not more than 200 yards over, but is sufficiently deep for trading vessels, and flat-bottomed boats: the latter would be safe and convenient in the bay, and in all these rivers. This country, with proper culture, seems capable of supporting a very large population.

Having made our way about twelve miles down the river, we called at a small village on the left bank to find some breakfast. We had two or three fowls, obtained at Papurh. The women cleaned some rice for us, beating it with pestles in large mortars. One man went after palm wine and another after honey. We bought a quantity of the honey in exchange for tobacco. The honey has a flavour of the wild flowers on which the bees feed, otherwise it is very good and quite abundant. The principal man was very civil and hospitable, but did not appear pleased with the idea of our seeing the country and writing books. Will Comberbuss, a fine old man, on whom we called a few miles back, expressed a different opinion: he said "it would be a very good thing for the country, if our people would come and bring *knowledge*; the land would produce rice, cotton, coffee, tobacco, and all good things, but the people did not *know*."

The banks are low for the last ten miles, and covered with mangroves. The Perra mountains may be seen from the river in some places. We had some rain to-day, for the first time since we came to the coast.

We crossed the bay with a fresh wind against us, occasionally dashing the waves into the canoe, and arrived at our little schooner, at 9, p. m. somewhat weary, wet, and hungry.

Sherbro Sound, Saturday, 12th April, 1818.

We sailed from York island eight or ten miles, and anchored off Campelar, a little village belonging to Mr. Kizell. It is situated on a low spot, nearly surrounded with mangroves; but open to the sea-breeze, and represented healthy. It was chiefly designed for the accommodation of Mr. K's wife's friends, and convenient for boiling salt. We saw a brother-in-law, whom Mr. K. rescued from foreign slavery at much expense—a man of native intelligence and a good aspect. We had a tornado to-day. It is a violent gust of wind of short duration, usually attended with rain, lightning, and thunder.

Sabbath, 19th April, 1818.

Darkness, gross darkness, covers the nations around us. But this darkness shall be dispelled. The sun of righteousness will yet arise upon them, with healing in his beams. In this consideration, we do rejoice, and we will rejoice.

Monday, 20th April, 1818.

At 4, A. M. we sent Mr. M. and Rango, king Fara's chief man, to request his majesty to meet us, at Campelar. He lives at Marro, about twelve miles distant, on Sherbro island. He claims the land on the Bagroo, and is one of the important personages of the country. For the land about Campelar, 500 or 600 acres, Mr. K. paid in goods, about 150 dollars. It will produce rice and cassada, but is chiefly used as a salt establishment. Mr. K. bought this place in 1814, and hired some men to clear away and burn the bushes. It was said that some serpents were involved in the conflagration. The natives, who have a particular veneration for serpents, (believing them to be the abode of the evil spirits, whose power and displeasure they deprecate,) asserted that the devils were so disturbed at the burning of the bushes, that they came into their towns, raising the most bitter complaints against John Kizell. They even thought of calling a palaver to try the offender according to the custom of the country. Several of the people of this village have been saved by Mr. K. from death or foreign slavery. No death has ever occurred in the village, since its settlement.

Our men went out at low water and brought in a boat-load of fine large oysters. We had a tornado to-day. It greatly purifies the air, dispels the general haze, and seems to diminish distances. After the rain, the mountains appeared admirably, with clouds resting along their sides or crowning their summits.

At York island, we took on board a man of Bandasuma, in Banga river. He went up the Deong river, the last moon, to trade for cloths. His canoe was left at Mattroo, just below the falls in Deong river. There he engaged men to help him to carry his salt across the country, eight days' journey. Passing the Timmanees, he traded chiefly with the Krangos and Kussoos. On his return, he was unfortunately plundered of his cloths, amounting to twenty or thirty pieces. He describes the country as high, generally level, and covered with forests. He speaks of mountains, in the third or fourth day's journey.

Tuesday, 21st April, 1818.

We have been waiting almost with impatience for the king of Fara. We are hoping to finish our inquiries, and leave this part of the coast, late in May, or early in June, before the rains are fully set in. The weather, since our arrival in Africa, has hitherto been quite pleasant, except the heat, occasionally rather oppressive. The tornado this evening, was severe; the wind blew hard a half an hour, and some rain fell. We perceive many appearances of distant thunder-storms, especially towards evening.

Wednesday, 22d April, 1810.

Our canoe returned this morning with the king of Fara. His people were rather unwilling to let him leave his town. Mr. M. says Marro has thirty cottages ; that the natives are badly supplied with provisions ; that the soil is sandy, except the mangrove land, which is muddy and sometimes overflowed. He, however, bought half a dozen fowls for a bar of tobacco, which would not indicate any famine.

Should commissioners of the American Society hereafter visit Africa, they should have a ship at their command, and a captain well acquainted with the coast. They should be furnished with ample stores of provisions, and with goods for trade, for the purchase of lands, and for presents to the kings.

When a place is selected, the lands should be cleared to a considerable extent, and some houses constructed, before many families removed. This could be done, under the direction of a few proper persons, employing native labourers. The expense would be trifling.

Should a colony be established in this part of Africa, it remains a question whether it should be governed by white men, or whether the people of colour will consider themselves competent to self-government in the first instance. If Paul Cuffee were alive, it might settle the question ; but unless a judicious man of colour can be found, who will secure the confidence of all parties, it will be best to have a white governor. Every thing should be done to encourage the people of colour to make exertions and help themselves. The lands should be kept cheap, and easily attainable. Each should become a possessor of land, and cultivate his own.

In making a purchase of lands, the goods must not all be given to one king, but properly apportioned to all in the vicinity.

A canoe with twelve persons, from Bendou to the Plantain islands, stopped along-side. Two women appeared to be the principal personages. Some of the women have very amiable and intelligent faces. The Africans generally appear cheerful and happy. Some of the canoes will carry forty persons, and sail about this bay at all seasons of the year, with entire safety. Sometimes, they spread a mat for a sail. Some use oars, but they generally use paddles. This land was once more populous. It is doubtful whether the population is now increasing, though the proportion of small children is very large. I think I never saw so great a proportion of healthy, active children in any country. Great numbers of the youth and the middle aged are in foreign lands, while the relics of old age, the head-men, and throngs of young children are left behind.

Fara pretends to be waiting for his principal men. He is making inquiries of our interpreters respecting our objects. We may well confide in their representations: they are faithful men, and deeply interested in our success.

Fara mentioned to Mr. K. a surprising phenomenon, of which he desired an explanation. A large tree, by a public path, well known to have lain on the ground some years, has lately risen up, stands firm and erect, and grows green and luxuriant. Mr. K. after some consideration, said he thought he could explain it. He said, "king Fara, his people, and his country, have long been prostrated and lain in the dust. They are now beginning to rise, and if they encourage these people to come from America, we hope they will help to give them wisdom and strength." Fara looked grave at the explanation, and thought it might be so.

Thursday, 23d April, 1818.

We had an interview with Fara, and made a brief statement of our objects and wishes, which he well understood. Rango, the chief speaker, replied in a very appropriate manner, "We hear you; we like your words; may God bless you, give you health and long life; may he bless Kizell, Martin, and the Caulkers too, because they were good in coming to introduce you. We shall not say much now: Fara, you see, is young, a boy; he will stand behind Sherbro, and will speak the same word as his father. We have not talked with Sherbro—you have; you have seen Caulker, Tucker, Soyarrah, &c.—they have offered you lands:—which do you fancy most? When a man wants a wife, and goes to a father who has many daughters, he tells the father which he likes best," etc. We told him that we had not seen all parts of the country yet, and were not prepared to make a selection; nor could we let the kings know our choice until we should return from our country. He said, we "were at liberty to go any where; the country was large, many parts where no people lived were very good land—the banks of the Yaltucker were fertile, and had few people; the Bagroo country was wide and vacant." He thanked us for our present, and Mr. K. for bringing us to Sherbro. He said he knew we should write all his words in our books, so we must hear true and write straight, (laying his palaver brush flat and straight on the ground.) They said "it was a custom of their country, when strangers came, to pour a little wine on the graves of their fathers, and say 'good strangers have come to us, O bless good strangers,' etc. and they wanted a little wine to pour at the root of the tree, once fallen, now standing erect." We told them their intimation would not be forgotten; and having taken an affectionate

leave of them, we returned on board, and sent them a bottle of wine, rather to bedew their royal lips, than to sprinkle the ashes of their fathers, or irrigate the marvellous tree.

At 11, A. M. we sailed from Campelar, having seven or eight fathoms water until we came to the mouth of the Bagroo, where we had four or five fathoms. The general course of the Bagroo is from the east. The banks are low, and covered with mangroves. Many little islands lie along on each side, near the mouth. The river is one and a half, and one mile wide, for the first six miles. Here comes in, on the right, the Banga, from the south-east, a quarter of a mile wide at its entrance. Shortly above, comes in the Robanna on the left, one hundred yards wide. This flows out from the Bagroo fifteen miles above, and having made a little excursion of about twenty-five miles, here returns to the parent stream. Passing up about ten miles, from the Banga, with a few curves and windings, comes in from the right, the beautiful Mano, one hundred yards wide. Here we anchored early in the evening, in five fathoms. By measure, the Bagroo was here found to be three hundred and fifty yards over. At the confluence of these rivers, or on the right bank of the Mano, is the place for our town. Mr. K. gives it a preference to any other part of Sherbro.

Mano river, Friday, 24th April, 1818.

We took a canoe to make an excursion up the Mano.— This branch of the Bagroo is three and a half and four fathoms deep. It has low banks about two miles, and covered with mangroves, with the exception of one place, one mile up, on the right hand. Here we stopped to lay the plan of a town. The land gradually rises back twenty-five or thirty feet, is sufficiently supplied with stone for building or other purposes, and is covered with fine large timber of various qualities. The Mano mountain, or a ridge of it, terminates abruptly on the left bank just above, which adds much to the rude scenery of the spot. The ground is hard and dry, covered with six or eight inches of vegetable mould. Six miles above, the hills on the right bank are cleared to a great extent, for rice. The soil did not appear to be deep. On the opposite bank stands the village of Mano, over which a kind sensible man presides, named Superwill. He sent a man with us to show us the falls or rapids in the river, two miles above. The water becomes more shallow. Ledges of rocks lie along in some parts of the channel. The rapids are formed by ledges, extending across the river, for a quarter of a mile. These are bare now, in the dry season, so that we could walk nearly across the river; but in the rainy season, they are mostly covered. The width of the



channel is 60 or 80 yards. This being the driest season of the year, the quantity of water descending did not appear to be great, but the current was rapid. No one perpendicular fall exceeded about four feet. The descent in three or four hundred yards, appeared to be twelve or fifteen feet. Here is an abundance of stone convenient for laying the foundation of forges, mills, and water works of any description. There is an abundance of large, hard timber, above the rapids, and along the banks. Indeed, the country is a forest. There are evident appearances of iron ore in many places. We crossed a fine rivulet of very cool and pure water, descending from the hill, and flowing over a bottom of gravel and sand. We went up the hill to see the rice plantations. The country back appeared to be high land, agreeably undulating, and covered with forest. For health and comfort it appears very inviting, though the soil is not so fertile, nor so easy of tillage, as on the banks, and in the low lands.

On our return, we stopped at Mano. The head-woman had boiled for us a dish of rice, and dressed some fowls. We gave her a small present, as we had before done to the head-man. Superwill, the head-man, gave us a lamb. All the people in this river appeared most friendly and kind. They expressed great satisfaction at our words, and eager to see our people come, if they would be kind, and bring God's book. We said that persons must be sent with our people to establish schools for the children, and to instruct the people. They said they should be glad. One man, whose hair and beard were white with age, said, he wished it could be now; it was much wanted in the country—he wished to hear more about God's book before he died. It is certainly surprising that there should be such a desire among the people to hear the book of God, and to have their children instructed to read. There is just reason to hope that the principles of our holy religion would be embraced by many in this country, if they were instructed in them.

It seems desirable to obtain this country to the right of the Mano. It is high and airy. It extends back 80 or 90 miles to the Timmannee country. It is called a good country by those who have travelled over it. A brook is spoken of, which empties into the Mano, one or two miles above the rapids, and extends far into the interior. The whole country, after we leave the little villages on the Mano, has no inhabitants until we reach the Timmannees. Its extent, vacant population, and probable fertility, render it highly eligible. To this might be added the peninsula between the Bagroo and Mano rivers, which will include the Mano moun-

tain, as the other tract does the Perra mountain. These alone form a vacant region of 3000 square miles, and capable of supporting, with very moderate culture, a population of 20,000. It includes mountains, rivers, forests, rapids, and springs of water. The Bagroo will admit vessels of a good size to the mouth of the Mano; and the Mano, especially at high tide, or in the rainy season, has three and four fathoms water, nearly to the rapids, above the village Mano. Another vacant and fertile tract, lies north of the Boom river. Perhaps this should be preferred to the other. Except where the towns stand, any part of the country may be bought in exchange for goods, nearly on our own terms.

Bagroo River, Saturday, 25th April, 1818.

We floated up with the tide from the mouth of the Mano to the village Tasso, on the left bank, perhaps ten miles. As we sailed up we passed two little villages on the left, and the Mano mountain on the right. This mountain has a very interesting appearance, covered with forest, having usually a gradual ascent, and presenting eligible places for buildings, and for small towns, if the soil should prove favourable for agriculture. The mangroves occupy a narrow space nearly all along the banks: where they grow, the soil is a black mud, doubtless rich, if it could be cleared, and sufficiently secured from inundation for purposes of culture.

Just below Tasso, and on the same side, is a trading establishment, called Liverpool, now under the superintendence of a Mr. Jones, one of the first settlers of Sierra Leone. He has lived here, with a considerable family of children and grand-children, some years. He and his son appear to be sensible, christian men, and anxious to see their brethren in America return to this country. They cultivate rice, cassada, sweet potatoes, and a variety of fruits. Indian corn, when planted, grows well, but rice is preferred. They think that beans, and a great variety of roots and vegetables would do well, if cultivated with any care. The wild pigs are very numerous, and root up the fields of cassada. Fowls, sheep, and goats, thrive and multiply. The leopard was troublesome formerly, in catching the kids and lambs. We went back to the spring of water, and to the rice and cassada fields. The land on this side of the Bagroo, is quite different from that on the other side, and to the right of the Mano. Here, it is level country, the whole distance to the Yallucker, or to the Camaranca river. It is rather a thin soil, and generally sandy, but easy of tillage, and quite productive. It is covered with a luxuriant growth of small wood, shrubs, and vines. Which tract may finally prove the most eligible, admits of doubt.

Sabbath, 26th April, 1818.

We lay off Tasso. Somango is the head-man. The village has 30 houses. The people are said to be very wicked and superstitious.

Mr. K. saw Somango towards evening, and stated to him our general objects. He appeared friendly; but he told Mr. K. when strangers came, they gave him wine or rum. Mr. K. said, that slave-traders gave rum to make them quarrel and sell each other; this was what they wanted: but the strangers he had brought, came to open their eyes, and not to blind them, and hoped to find and leave them sober, that they might be able to give a true answer, and speak good words.

Bagroo River, Monday, 27th April, 1818.

Somango has gone to Robanna, to consult with Sologo, and to invite him to Tasso. Sologo is quite aged, and is considered the principal man in this river.

I took the boat and went up the Bagroo. Mangroves still line the banks. In a mile and a half we came to two forks in the river; each branch is more than 100 yards wide; the one runs from the north, and the other from the east. From Mr. K's account, I should not think that large canoes could ascend either branch, more than 15 or 20 miles, and the source of each cannot be more than 50 or 60 miles. Both branches become inconsiderable brooks above where the tide flows.

We called at a place, once a slave-factory of the Bance-island Company, now overgrown with grass and shrubs. There are orange and lime trees adjacent. We knocked off a few oranges with sticks, and asked our boatmen to climb the trees and gather more. They hesitated, being afraid there were gregrees on the trees. We called at another place, where Gordon Hicks, and other Sierra Leone colonists used to trade. The land is not liable to be overflowed; sandy, but productive.

We had conversation with a Mr. Wilson, at Liverpool, who is a man of colour, formerly of Boston, or Baltimore. He is a ship carpenter, and came out from Boston to Sierra Leone, about four years ago. He said it was best for the people of colour, who are now in America, to come to this country. He said that houses, built in the style of the natives, at 10 or 12 dollars each, 10 feet by 15 or 20, would be best, just in the infancy of the colony. Carpenters, and all mechanics, should come from America. If they could not work the whole day at first, they could work a part of the day, and superintend the business. He said he gave more than 100 dollars, at Sierra Leone, for the frame only of a

small wooden house. The carpenters of Sierra Leone charge a dollar a day : three or four of them would not do more work in a day than one in the United States. He said that one kind of the mangroves hard, tall, and straight, would make very good house-timber.

Mr. K. said that if a place were selected for a colony, he could see fifty or an hundred acres of land cleared in a short time, and houses, constructed in the country style, to accommodate the first settlers. The expense of clearing the land might be about six dollars an acre.

The young Mr. J. said that he had travelled through the Bagroo country to the Timmanees, between two and three day's journey, and could strongly recommend it to us. It was high, supplied with brooks and springs, having sufficient stone for building and other purposes, and richly covered with forest trees, which sufficiently indicated a good soil.—He said the Bagroo was the most extensive district in Sherbro, and was without inhabitants.

Tuesday, 28th April, 1818

Tasso extends along the bank one hundred yards, and fifty back. It has orange, lime, cocoa-nut, banana, and plantain trees around it; and then forest and wild shrubbery.—Some tall and elegant pulom trees stand in the devil's bush. The rice fields are concealed one or two miles back of the town. The Mano mountain bears S. E. four miles distant. From Liverpool, we can look across to the cleared lands beyond the Mano river, where we were five days ago. Rice, honey, cassada, and fowls, are quite cheap and abundant. The meat of the goat is preferred to mutton, having nothing of the rancid flavour which is observed in northern latitudes. Cattle might be raised to any extent, but no one here has wealth or energy enough. Horses are unknown, but might be introduced from the Foulhas and Soosoos. The horses, used by the Indians on the Mississippi, I think would do well here. Probably mules and oxen might be used in the cultivation of the soil.

Mr. J. gave us a long account of the difficulties of the Sierra Leone colony with the natives. He thinks 300 men, well armed, who could be assembled on a short notice, would afford entire security to any colony against them.

Wednesday, 29th April, 1818.

As Somango does not return and there is no advantage arising from a delay at Tasso, we conclude to go down the river and call at Robanna, where Somango is now engaged in consultations with Sologo. Robanna is situated on Robanna river or creek, which runs out of the Bagroo a little below Tasso; and returns into it again about fifteen miles

further down. We sent Mr. Anderson in a canoe down the Robanna, while we sailed down the Bagroo. Mr. A. found Sologo at home, who sent word that if we would call on him at Robanna, he would tell us what was in his head.

We have become so far acquainted with the country, as to satisfy ourselves that there is much good land unoccupied by any people, and that it has good water. The climate we believe will be deemed as temperate as that of any part of the coast between the Senegal and the equator. We do not see why it may not be a healthy country, as it has mountains and high ridges of land. The Mano has high banks a few miles above its mouth, though the Bagroo banks below this, are wholly covered with mangroves. The ridges of land are open to the sea-breeze. Brooks and springs may be found in almost any direction. Mills may be erected on the Mano.

The natives believe in the existence of a supreme God, who is great and good, but indifferent to the concerns of men. It is their concern to secure the favour and avert the displeasure of certain inferior malignant spirits, whom they imagine to be continually attendant on their persons, and to be the authors of all their evils. They place great confidence in their gregrees or amulets. They have sacred groves, trees, and huts. They occasionally strew fruits about their towns, or spread mats by the public paths, as offerings to the invisible spirits. They sometimes make prayers on the graves of their fathers, or under their sacred trees. Though they may sometimes pay a kind of homage to the supreme God, yet their ideas of him are very indistinct. The true light has never shone upon them. One who was present the other day, at our social worship, afterwards said to a friend, "that he never knew before, that white men prayed."

These three days Mr. B. has been quite unwell. In the afternoon and evening he has a high fever. It appears to have been brought on by too much fatigue on our excursions up the Deong and Mano rivers, and by too great exposure to the sun. He complains of severe pains in the head, and general disquietude. He has little sound sleep. He certainly needs medical aid and better attention than we can give him on board this little schooner. On his account, I am anxious to return directly to Sierra Leone. But he thinks there is as fair a prospect of his recovery here, as at the colony. He considers it very important that I should see Sologo and Pa Poosoo, and says a slight flush of the fever ought not to prevent it.

Thursday, 30th April, 1818.

We early embarked in our canoe to go up to Robanna.—The island formed by the Robanna and the Bagroo, is about five miles wide and fifteen long. It has a considerable quantity of dry land, though generally skirted with mangroves. A tract on the upper part of it belongs to Mr. K. The town stands on the left bank of the Robanna, about five miles from the Bagroo, built in the usual style. There are orange, cocoa-nut, lime, banana, and plantain trees, with many others, around the town. The area is about half an acre. It was formerly a large town. The cotton bush, cassada, sweet potatoes, &c. grow on the bank near the town. Sologo is a very old man, probably 70, having a beard long and white. The kings in this country are generally old men. We gave him a small piece of bafta, some tobacco, and powder, and stated to him our object in calling. He thanked us for our present, and said he was pleased with our object. He said king Fara was over that part of the country. He told the story of the capture and escape of old king Sherbro, and that he afterwards came to Robanna, where he died, and was buried. He said that the kings and head-men had never met together to appoint a regular successor. He did not like the conduct of Kong Couber, in retaining the power in his own hands, and did not appear disposed fully to acknowledge the supremacy of Sherbro. He thought as old king Sherbro died and was buried in his town, and no successor had been regularly appointed, he was equal or superior to the present king Sherbro. He, however, acknowledges Fara to be over him; and Fara, whom we saw the other day, says that Sherbro is the father of the country. Sologo is aged, feeble, and poor, and would no doubt grant our wishes, so far as it depended on him, if he might have a share in the goods given for lands. He said he knew our object was a good one, and that Mr. K., who brought us to him, was a friend to the country. He gave us two fowls and a quantity of rice, which we accepted in compliance with his wishes and general custom. The kings and people are all poor, because they are too indolent to make any considerable efforts to obtain wealth. They often oppose the active young men, who are collecting things comfortable around them; and say these young men are high-minded: they want to go before all, and outdo their fathers. They have been known to call palavers, take away the property of the young men, and sell them as slaves. The indolence of the people is not chiefly owing to climate, but to their dispositions and habits.

In going to Robanna, we passed places, as we have done in all the other rivers, where there were formerly large towns, and now not a hut standing. Wars, the slave-trade, and red-water, have wasted away the inhabitants. Mr. K. thinks the population has decreased one half since he became acquainted with the country, twenty years ago. He considers the population now decreasing. This may be ascribed partly to the practice of polygamy, but more to the slave-trade, which is still privately carried on to a considerable extent; and, as Mr. K. thinks, still more to the sovereign and mysterious providence of God, who has so ordered it, that the country might now be vacant for the introduction of a better people.

Friday, 1st May, 1818.

Soon after sun-rise we set out in our canoe to go up the Banga, as far as Bandasuma, on a visit to Pa Poosoo, the head-man. The Banga is nearly a mile wide at the mouth, and about a quarter of a mile wide at Bandasuma, seven miles up. The banks are low, muddy, and overgrown with mangroves. At one place, however, the dry land comes down nearly to the bank of the river. As far as I could ascertain, this high land extends back to the Mano, and might be included in any future purchase of lands on that river. This tract Pa Poosoo has offered to Mr. K. if he would come and live in the country.

Soon after our arrival at Bandasuma, we had an interview with Pa Poosoo, who expressed great satisfaction with our designs. As some of his men whom he wished to consult were out of town, he sent for them, and waited for their return. It rained very hard late in the afternoon, and was cloudy until night. After sun-set, having consulted with his principal men, Pa Poosoo made known to us that he was ready to give us an answer. We assembled at the king's house. A wax candle was burning in the wall. The king's brother said, (in reference to myself and Mr. B., who was unable to come with us,) " May God bless you, and as you came in health to this country, may you return in health to your own. We are glad to hear what you say; we like it well. The old people among us wish you had come before. They are now afraid they will die too soon. They want to see the time when the people will come to this country to teach the children to read and write, and to know the true God. The king says I must tell you he likes your object much; and if the other kings call him to say what is in his heart, he shall say, give the people land. We know you come with a good mind, because Mr. K. brings you, and he is a friend to our country. The old people will

die fools, but if these people come from America, the children will turn and know more than their fathers. But they were afraid the people would not come, and it would never be as they said. There was much good land where no people lived. I inquired what part of the country would be best for the people, when they should come to settle. They replied, when a man was looking for a wife, he would not like to have another to select for him. They asked in return, what part of the country pleased us most? I replied that we wished to see more of it, before we fixed on any part. They afterwards said, if they were to choose the place, they would say, bring the people to our town. Pa Poosoo is nearly 70 years old, of a pleasant countenance, and good character. We staid over night. More rain fell.

Saturday, 2d May, 1818.

We prepared to return early. Pa Poosoo thanked us for our present, and gave us two leopard skins in return. We took an affectionate leave of the kind old man. His town is pleasantly situated on a point of land, formed by the junction of the Banga and Bandasuma, and contains 80 cottages. The ground is very productive, though the soil does not appear to be very rich. It has an abundant growth of trees, shrubs, and vines. The Banga has one considerable branch making off to the left, as we ascended. It has also many outlets, or deep muddy creeks, one of which connects it with the Bagroo, just below the mouth of the Mano.

Since we left Sierra Leone, we have had land offered us by T. Caulker, on the Camaranca; by J. Tucker, on the Boom; by the king of Cotton, on the Deong; by Fara, on the Bagroo, or the Yaltucker; and by Pa Poosoo, on the Banga. The Bagroo presents one of the best places for the commencement of a colony, in this part of Africa. It might soon extend to the right of the Mano, towards the Perra mountains; and then, if desired, it might have liberty to spread back into the interior 50 or 80 miles. The country is unoccupied, has good water, is dry, and agreeably uneven.

We reached our schooner at 10 A. M. and made preparations to leave the river. We found that some of our crew had been to the oyster bank, and gathered two boat loads, which were a sufficient quantity to supply 10 or 12 men a week.

We daily see the smoke of several fires, where the natives are clearing the ground for rice. This has been a common and a pleasing spectacle, while we have been in the country.



Banana Islands, Tuesday, 5th May, 1818.

Early this morning we called at the Banana islands, and restored to Mr. Caulker his messengers, who have attended us the whole circuit. The young men have behaved well, while they have been with us, and one of them has made some progress in the first rules of arithmetic.

Sierra Leone, Thursday, 7th May, 1818.

We arrived to-day, and took lodgings with the Rev. Mr. Brown, a worthy missionary of the Wesleyan Methodist connection.

Sierra Leone, Saturday, 9th May, 1818.

I called on Governor Macarthy. He received me in a very friendly manner, and offered us any assistance in his power. He expressed a confidence in the benevolent views of the American Society.

A Danish ship arrived to-day, having on board a nobleman, who was a late Governor of one of the Danish forts on the Gold coast. He is now on his return from Denmark to his station.

We have spent some time with the Rev. Mr. Aylander, a missionary of the Church Missionary Society, whose name is familiar in the United States. He is an intelligent, meek, and devout man. He mourns over the inefficacy of his labours among the natives. Tears stood in his eyes while he described the state of the people, and spoke of the small fruits which he was allowed to witness of the usefulness of his labours. All the missionaries here are christian men, and entitled to the confidence and prayers of good people throughout the earth.

Captain Appleton sailed to-day to enter upon the duties of his office, as commandant of St. Mary's, in the Gambia.

Sierra Leone, Sabbath, 10th May, 1818.

There is a great degree of regularity among the people of this place. There does not seem to be any labour on this day, and a large proportion are regular attendants on the worship of God. The untractable Kroo-men will indeed indulge in their wrestlings and other sports on the beach, notwithstanding past attempts to check them.

I heard a sermon from the Rev. Mr. Garnon, the colonial chaplain, and another from the Rev. Mr. Brown. There are foundations laid for three houses of worship in Freetown.—They will be constructed of stone, large and durable. These edifices and churches, which have been built and are building, prove the permanence of the colony and are a pledge of its future prosperity.

Sierra Leone, Tuesday, 10th May, 1818.

I called on the Danish Governor, and showed him Count Schimmelman's letter to us. He esteemed the objects of our embassy humane, important, and adapted to promote the best interests of Africans. He did not conceive that colonies of the American people of colour would, in the least, interfere with any existing European establishment; on the contrary, they might aid each other, and combine their efforts to civilize and instruct the African nations. Agriculture and commerce would naturally increase with the number of settlements, which had these objects in view. He had been on the coast five years, and considered the high lands healthy. He had been invited by the Bishop of Copenhagen to translate the Bible into the language of Acra, and he expressed his determination to execute the work, which he had already begun!

Sierra Leone, Monday, 18th May, 1818.

I have now visited most of the villages in the colony. The population of the colony is nearly twelve thousand. The schools are in a flourishing state, accommodating nearly two thousand children. Each village has a superintendent, who is a clergyman or schoolmaster. Each village has a place of worship, where prayers are made, morning and evening, in the presence of the people. The Sabbath is observed through the colony.

The Governor is justly esteemed as a father and patron of the colony. He makes great exertions for its improvement.

Respecting an American colony, he has at different times expressed the following opinions, which I am the more disposed to write down, as some of them deserve particular consideration: That a private society can hardly be expected to have adequate funds to found and support a colony without the aid of the government: that, in the first instance, white men of intelligence and good character should occupy some of the principal offices: that the government should be mild and energetic: that forts would be necessary: that one hundred men, with arms, and some knowledge of discipline, could defend themselves from the natives: that the occasional visits of an armed vessel, engaged in detecting slave traders, would give entire security: that the neutrality of a colony could easily be ensured by an application to the European governments: that the first colonists should be men of sober and industrious habits, who will devote themselves to agriculture or to some of the useful mechanic arts: that one year's provisions, or the means of purchasing them, would be necessary to the colonists: that, if expedient, the

limits of this colony might be enlarged to accommodate five or ten thousand emigrants from America: that it was particularly proper for the American government to commission an armed ship to this coast, to capture slave-trading vessels, as two thirds of them are, or have been American: that the free people of colour would be better situated in Africa, than they are, or can soon expect to be, in America.

I am every day more convinced of the practicability and expediency of establishing American colonies on this coast.

Brig Success. Friday, 22d May, 1818.

We have taken an affectionate leave of the clergymen, the civil officers, and the colonists, of Sierra Leone. We are embarked for the United States, by way of England, and the continent of Africa recedes from our view.

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(B.)

*Copy of a Letter from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron and President of the African Institution, to the Hon. Bushrod Washington, President of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States.*

Gloucester House, Jan. 29th 1818.

SIR—I have received, with much gratification, your letter delivered to me by Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess, and I am confident it will afford the members of the African Institution the highest satisfaction to learn the benevolent object of the Association, formed at Washington.

The establishing a colony on the coast of Africa, by the civilized descendants of their parent country, assuredly holds out one of the most pleasing channels by which to meliorate the condition of that unhappy people; and I am well convinced the African Institution will be prompt to show every attention to the gentlemen deputed, with views of benevolence and humanity,<sup>d</sup> so truly corresponding with the objects of our society.

I am, Sir,

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM FREDERICK.

*Copy of a Letter from Count Schimmelmann, late Minister of State in the kingdom of Denmark, enclosing a Letter from the Colonial Department of the Danish Government, to the Governors of the Danish Colonies in Africa.*

GENTLEMEN—The worthy and amiable clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Henderson, whose distinguished qualities have been known and acknowledged also in Denmark, especially by his unwearied and successful endeavours to promote the noble aim of the Bible Societies in this country, as in so many other parts of Europe, has been determined, in a letter from London, to apply to me for seconding, as far as in my power, the humane and benevolent views of the Society, which has been formed in North America, for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States; and which also, at present, is devising to contrive means of establishing, on the west coast of Africa, those poor and partly abused people.

You, Gentlemen, have been appointed by the respectable American Society, as their agents, on a mission to explore a part of the western coast of Africa, which might be fit for the purpose; and it being possible, that you also may visit the Danish settlements in Africa, I am not sensible, among the means in my power, of any better medium to answer the confidence shown me by the above mentioned intimation, and to render you, Gentlemen, some little service, than by requesting our Department of the Colonies, to communicate to you an official letter of recommendation to the Danish authorities in Africa.

Our Department of the Colonies having immediately granted my request on that account, please to accept of the enclosed letter of introduction, in which you are very well recommended to the Danish Government in Guinea, in order that, whenever the scheme of your voyage possibly might conduct you to the Danish settlements in Africa, you may the more be assured of a good and kind reception.

I earnestly wish that your noble and humane endeavours may, by the blessings of God Almighty, be crowned with success, and that the result of your exertions may not serve to strengthen, but even to confute that idea, to which I cannot help being inclined, of almost invincible difficulties contrary to the colonizing of free negroes and mulattoes in Africa. I also hope and wish that the highly expensive and successively increasing efforts, which the organization, the maintaining, and prosperity of such a colony, are deemed to request, may not be found exceeding the means of a private society, which cannot properly employ that common, but

very strong expedient for exciting and strengthening human energy—I mean interest and gain.

Wishing you all manner of blessing, prosperity, and happiness,

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient,  
E. G. SCHIMMELMAN.

Copenhagen, March 2d, 1818.

*To Samuel Mills, and Ebenezer Burgess,  
Gentlemen.*

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(C.)

*Extracts from Letters of the Rev. Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess,  
while in England, to the Secretary.*

“ London, 30th Dec. 1817.

“ We have already had interviews with the principal gentlemen to whom our letters were addressed. They have received us with much cordiality, and view the objects of the American Society with sentiments of enlarged benevolence.”

“ London, 16th Jan. 1818.

“ Our reception among the friends of humanity, who have been, and are, the successful advocates of the cause of Africans, has been very cordial, and sincerely affectionate. In their goodness, they have anticipated our wishes, and spared us the delicate office of soliciting favours.”

“ London, 17th Jan. 1818.

“ His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron and President of the African Institution, expressed his pleasure to see us at the Gloucester House, in company with Mr. Wilberforce. He was much gratified with the language and spirit of our commission. He expressed his intention to answer the letter of the President of the American Society; his confidence that there was a perfect coincidence in the grand objects of the American Society, and the African Institution; his hope that there would be a friendly intercourse between the two bodies; and his earnest desire, that their judicious and well directed exertions might effect the entire abolition of the slave trade, and contribute to the best interests of the African race, both at home and abroad.”

“ Mr. Wilberforce has further increased our obligations to him, by introducing us to Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonial Department. His Lordship had a perfect knowledge of the constitution and designs of the American Society. He read our commission, and answered with promptness. that he should give us letters of introduction and recommendation to the Governor of Sierra Leone, and other officers, who might be able to afford us patronage or assistance while prosecuting our inquiries on the coast of Africa. In the name of the American Society, we expressed our gratitude to his Lordship for the readiness with which he honoured us with an official letter to the Governor of Sierra Leone.”

*Note.*—The agents in their letters made respectful and grateful notices of the following gentlemen, among others, for services rendered or attentions shown them, in reference to the objects of their commission :—Right Hon. Lord Gambia; Right Hon. Lord Teignmouth; His Excellency Richard Rush, Esq.; W. Wilberforce, J. Butterworth, J. Stephen, W. Allen, Z. Macaulay, W. Vaughan, J. Reyner, S. Cock, J. Roberts, T. and J. Clarkson, Esquires; Rev. Messrs. Pratt, Henderson, Burder, Owen, Bickersteth, Steinkopff, Hinton, Treschow, Latrobe, Watson, Campbell; Messrs. Pritt, Dillwyn, Collins, Barclay, West.

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(D.)

*Patron and President.*

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, K. G.

*Vice Presidents.*

His grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Landsdowne.

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Hastings.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Bris'ol.

The Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selkirk.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Caledon.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Mountnorris.

The Right Hon. Viscount Milton.

The lord Bishop of Durham.

The lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The lord Bishop of St. Davids.

Right Hon. Lord Holland.  
 Right Hon. Lord Grenville.  
 Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe.  
 Right Hon. Lord Erskine.  
 Right Hon. Lord Gambier.  
 Right Hon. Lord Headley.  
 Right Hon. Lord Teignmouth.  
 Right Hon. George Canning, M. P.  
 Right Hon. J. C. Villiers.  
 Right Hon. Nicholas Vansittart, M. P.  
 Sir Samuel Romilly, M. P.  
 William Wilberforce, Esq. M. P.

*Directors.*

The Hon. H.G. Bennet, M.P.	Robert Grant, Esq.
The Hon. F. S. N. Douglas,	George Harrison, Esq.
M. P.	Thomas Harrison, Esq.
Sir T. Dyke Acland, bart.	Samuel Hoare, Jun. Esq.
Sir John Simeon, bart. M. P.	Thomas Hoblyn, Esq.
Sir John Cradock, G. C. B.	Robert Harry Inglis, Esq.
Sir John Grey Egerton, bart.	Stephen Lushington, L.L.D.
M. P.	Zachary Macaulay, Esq.
William Allen, Esq.	Matthew Martin, Esq.
Thomas Babington, Esq.	J. B. S. Morritt, Esq. M. P.
Charles Barclay, Esq.	J. Phillimore, L.L.D. & M.P.
William Blake, Esq.	William Smith, Esq. M. P.
Henry Brougham, Esq. M. P.	J. H. Smyth, Esq. M. P.
Thos. F. Buxton, Esq. M.P.	Lieut. General Stevenson.
Thomas Clarkson, Esq.	James Stephen, Esq.
Uvedale Corbett, Esq.	Rev. James Towers.
Colonel Dalton.	John Wishaw, Esq.
Rev. W. Dealtry.	E. B. Wilbraham, Esq. M.P.
Thomas Furlly Forster, Esq.	James Rice Williams, Esq.

*Auditors.*

Joseph Bradney, Esq.  
 Robert Marsden, Esq.  
 Harry Scrivener, Esq.

*Treasurer.*

John Thornton, Esq.

*Secretary.*

Thomas Harrison, Esq.

*Clerk.*

Mr. Robert Stokes.

*Solicitors.*

Messrs. Lambert and Son.

*Collector.*

Mr. Abraham Tattlet.

*Messenger.*

Charles Bala.

## (E)

## SKETCH OF SIERRA LEONE.

Colonization in Africa, with reference to civilization, appears to have been contemplated in England as early as 1775 or 1780. A definite plan was projected by Dr. H. Smeathman, who had passed some years in Africa, in his letters to Dr. Knowles, in 1783. The first removal to Sierra Leone was in 1787. The people from Nova Scotia, who were once slaves in the United States, were removed in 1791, and the Maroons from Jamaica, it is believed, in 1805. The liberations from slave-ships have been wholly since the abolition of the trade in 1807. The colony was supported by the Sierra Leone Company, until 1808, when it was taken under the patronage of government.

The colony is situated on the south bank of Sierra Leone river, in latitude 8 deg. 30 min. north. The original purchase was ten miles square. Freetown is the principal town, standing on St. George's Bay, six miles from Cape Sierra Leone. There are five villages, between two and seven miles distant, in different directions from Freetown, called Regent's, Gloucester, Wilberforce, Leicester, and Kissey Towns. The local situation of the colony is admirable for health and commerce. The sea-breeze has free access; the mountains are high, and the river is navigable by the largest ships.

The population exceeds twelve thousand. These are the first settlers from England and Nova Scotia, Maroons from Jamaica, those who have been liberated from captured slave ships, and a few hundreds from the adjacent tribes.—All these are people of colour. To these may be added about fifty Europeans, who are civil and military officers, religious teachers, merchants, and mechanics. The colonists sustain most of the subordinate offices.

The schools are very flourishing. Nearly 2,000, including some adults, enjoy daily instruction. The children, who have been born in the colony, are active, intelligent, and healthy. Those who passed their first five or ten years without instruction, and then endured a period of confinement, famine, and disease on board of slave ships, need some months or years to acquire the health, animation, and intelligence which they might otherwise have possessed. They are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and some of them, the rudiments of English grammar and geography. The Church Missionary Society has extended to this colony its



kindest regard and liberal aid. Several chaplains and school masters have been furnished and supported, at different periods, through their agency. The Christian Institution, established on Leicester Mountain, accommodates about two hundred children, who are mostly named and supported by benefactors in England. These are children once destined to foreign slavery, now fed, clothed, governed, and carefully taught in the christian religion. Assembled in the church to worship God, they are a spectacle of grateful admiration, and their state happily exemplifies the divine origin and holy principles of the religion in which they are taught. At Regent's town, which has a population of thirteen hundred, the agents saw two hundred children in the schools; and on the sabbath, more than one thousand of the children and people were present in the church, neatly dressed, sober, reverential, attentive to hear the word of God, and uniting their voices to sing his praise. The sabbath is observed through the colony, with the exception, perhaps, of some Europeans and the Kroomen. Freetown has five religious teachers, (three Europeans and two men of colour,) Leicester mountain has two, and each of the villages has one. These are all men of christian character.

Freetown makes a very decent appearance; the streets are at right angles, wide and neat; fruit trees grow about the town; the houses formerly built were small, but those now building are of stone, two stories high, airy, and convenient. The colony is advancing in wealth with sufficient rapidity. Trade has been chiefly pursued, but agriculture begins to have a share of attention.

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*Extract from the Sierra Leone Gazette of the 3d January, 1818.*

This day ten years this colony was transferred from the Sierra Leone Company to his majesty's government; and by a return published in the then Gazette, the total number of births in the year 1807, were fifty-seven; deaths, thirty-six; and marriages, fourteen. We hope to be enabled to give in our next the return for the year 1817; and, as an evident proof of the better state of morality in the colony, we are bold to say, the marriages frequently exceed in one week the number of one year in that time.

We ought, then, to begin 1818, by rendering thanks unto Him to whom all thanks are due. Let us compare the present state of the colony with the rank it held even so late as 1808. The number of the youth of both sexes attending schools in Freetown and the other towns, actually exceeds by hundreds the whole population of that year. We have

encountered some difficulties. Our progress for a few years was slow : some of our friends have even affirmed that we were not only stationary, but actually retrograding. We are now happy to state, in defiance of those friends and of our opponents, that greater progress has been obtained, in all the branches of civilization and moral improvement, in the short space of three years, in this very colony, so much extolled, abused, traduced, and envied, than in any other part of his majesty's dominions.

We have much satisfaction in calling the attention of our readers to the fourth quarterly examination of the scholars of the Colonial Free-School, which took place on Monday the 22d ult., before his excellency the Governor, the honourable the Chief Justice, and the members of council. From the quarterly report of the schoolmaster, it appears that some of the scholars have quitted the school in the capacity of shopkeepers' clerks ; but, that notwithstanding this, there is an increase of seventeen in the whole number of boys since the last quarter. The number of girls is the same. Though in consequence of the holiday season and other accidental causes, there was a much thinner attendance (particularly of girls) on this, than on former similar occasions, it gave us great pleasure to observe that considerable improvement had taken place among the scholars in reading, since the last examination ; and several of them recited pieces of poetry and portions of scripture, very correctly.

On the whole, we may congratulate our readers on the promising state of the schools. Several boys now fill situations, for which, but for the school, they would have been totally unfit : this affords great encouragement to proceed.

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*Extract from the Sierra Leone Gazette, of the 10th Jan. 1818.*

On the 31st ult. an examination of the school was held at Regent's town, before his excellency the Governor, the honourable the Chief Justice, the members of council, and most of the principal inhabitants of the colony.

The appearance of the whole of the scholars (male and female) was equally creditable to their teachers and themselves. The sight of a well-regulated school has ever been interesting to a feeling heart : we own that to us it was most peculiarly so. We had seen, but a short, very short period before, those beings, now so cleanly clad, so decent in their appearance, no way inferior to our promising country boys and fair country lasses—we had seen them brought to this colony naked, without any idea of the true God, yoked

together as the brute beasts employed by man for the labour of the field—and we thanked God for the change.

In reading, the adults have made considerable progress since the last examination; the boys and girls have kept pace with them. The examination was very properly concluded by singing) the boys and girls in chorus) of hymns in praise to our Redeemer. The singing was executed with infinite taste and good voices. Well might they, and well may we, sing praise to the Lord.

Here we might expatiate with delight on such a scene, and in such a place. Three years are scarcely elapsed, and a wilderness, known under the vile name of Hogbrook, is changed into a Christian and romantic spot, inhabited by upwards of *thirteen hundred British loyal subjects*.

The company were hospitably entertained by his excellency, at the parsonage-house, erected within the last year, and newly finished: it is the residence of the Rev. William Johnson, the present worthy chaplain and superintendent. That house, the church, other public buildings, and indeed the private houses (now building by subscription among themselves,) were and are raising by those very beings whom the traffickers in human blood have so long calumniated and oppressed. The whole of those buildings are in a most elegant style; and we have been assured, as before stated, built by captured negroes, a few soldiers of the royal African Corps, and an European artificer attached to the engineer department. The day was ended as begun, in innocent hilarity, and will undoubtedly be long remembered by those present. The British flag was flying on the tower of St. Charles's church, the first stone church erected on the west coast of Africa, in 1816. His Excellency is now enlarging it; and when completed, which will be in the course of one or two months, it will accommodate thirteen or fourteen hundred persons.

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*Extract of the Sierra Leone Gazette of the 17th January, 1818.*

On Tuesday the 6th inst. the school at Leicester Mountain was examined, in presence of his Excellency the Governor, the Hon. T. S. Buckle, &c. &c. The children appeared as might have been expected, from their being under the special care of the "Church Missionary Society." The examination was, with very great propriety, begun and ended by singing hymns in praise to God, and prayer.

The boys (two hundred) and girls (fifty) went through their different exercises in a manner creditable to themselves and their teachers. The examination took place in the

church erected by the Society on Leicester Mountain. The site commands a most extensive view of the town, harbour, and sea. It will stand as a land-mark of christianity. The sailor, on seeing its spire for afar, will return praise to his God, and bless his country for having thus afforded an asylum to the oppressed African. The view of a church on British ground in Africa, proclaims the liberty of the subject.

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*Extract of a Letter from his Excellency the Governor of Sierra Leone, addressed to the Secretary of the African Institution, dated Government House, 6th March, 1818.*

I shall avail myself of an early opportunity to forward the return of the schools. The number of scholars of both sexes in the country towns has increased, and the grand total of men, women, boys, and girls, now attending schools on the Peninsula, does not fall short of *two thousand*. The inhabitants of the colony have so very frequently experienced the interest the friends of Africa take in their prosperity, that I feel it a most pleasing part of my duty to be enabled to prove, by incontrovertible documents, the very great improvement in the commercial importance of this colony. The enclosed returns prove, that during the year 1817, the amount of merchandise imported into the colony exceeds that of 1816 by 39,286*l.* and the number of vessels fourteen. I doubt not but you will observe with pleasure, that this increase is on the British goods. The prospect of our export for the present year is highly flattering, the wood for ship-building having been so successfully tried in the Royal dock yard. One vessel has already sailed, in January (the Pyrenees :) the brig Mary sails this day with the same: the Magdalene is loaded in the harbour, on the point of sailing: the ship Preston is loading near Bance Island: several vessels are expected. The rice harvest has been abundant: preparations are making for cleaning that article, so as to render it fit for the West India market; and if the experiments of rice mills, which I understand are now making at home, should succeed, I have no doubt but from the neighbourhood of this very colony, so frequently traduced, a great proportion, if not the whole, of our West India islands, could be supplied with food procured by British merchants, and with goods the produce of the mother country, or of her East India empire,—and the adjoining rivers would thus be amply repaid for giving up the slave trade.

*Comparative Statement of the Number of Vessels entered at the Custom House, Free Town, Sierra Leone,  
and the Amount of Imports per said Vessels, for the undermentioned periods.*

PERIOD.	No. of Vessels entered.	Invoice amount of Imports of British Goods, per said Vessels.				Invoice amount of Foreign Goods per said Vessels.				Total Invoice amount of Imports per said Vessels				REMARKS.
		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		
From Dec. 6, 1815, to Dec. 9, 1816.	30	28,019	5	11	3-4	8034	3	1		36,053	9	0	3-4	Four of these vessels land- ed no cargo.
From Dec. 10, 1816, to Nov. 22, 1817.	44	67,656	2	3	1-4	7683	9	9	1-2	75,339	12	0	3-4	Two of these vessels land- ed no cargo.

Increase in the latter period, of 14 Vessels, and *L.*39,286 3*s.* 0*d.* Sterling Imports.

*Custom House, Free Town,  
Sierra Leone, 1st January, 1818.*

(Signed)

**J. REFFELL, Collector.**



# ACCOUNT of the Captured Negroes in the Colony of Sierra Leone.

TOWN.	SUPERINTENDANTS.	Settled in Colony on Lots, and supporting selves by industry.		Wives of Ditto, and others, and Wives of men in R. Af. Corps.		Learning the Arts of Sawyers, Carpenters, Masons, Shingle Making, Brick Making, Tailors, &c. &c.		Living as Free Servants, or Apprentices.		Attending School.		Living with their Parents, or Country People.		Employed Trading in adjoining Rivers, no settled residence.		Born in the Colony.		TOTAL.				GRAND TOTAL.	REMARKS.
		Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.	Men.	Boys.		
Free Town, and its immediate Neighbourhood.		203	407	10	133	40	40	216	97			33	100			58	51	253	447	490	248	1438	Government and private Apprentices (boys) attend the Colonial School morning and evening. Girls, the Sunday School. (The Boys and Men learning arts are Government Apprentices.
Leicester Town.		32	36									2				10	10	52	36	12	10	96	
Church Missionary Society, Christian Institution, Leicester Mountain.	Rev. L. Butscher, and Mr. and Mrs. Horton.								227	59										227	59	286	Living under the superintendence of the Church Missionary Society; several of the boys work at various trades.
Gloucester Town.	Mr. and Mrs. Deering.	123	30	28						13	67							153	30	13	67	263	
Bathurst Town.	Mr. Kearney.	40	35	15								15	2			2	1	55	35	17	3	110	Adults taught christianity and agriculture. This town has lately had a Superintendent
Leopold Town.	Rev. W. Davies.	30	33	5	2							7	1			1		89	33	11	1	134	
Charlotte Town.	Wm. Ashford.	46	27	5	12											1		55	27	3		85	Adults and artificers attend evening school
Regents Town, and its Vicinity.	Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.	509	62	6	56					179	93	3	10			2	4	571	365	240	107	1283	
Wilberforce Town, and its Vicinity.	Mr. J. B. Cates.	163	365									20	2			31	45	133	120	51	47	357	Several Adults, and all the Mechanics, attend an evening school. This town has very lately had a Superintendent.
Nissi Town, and its Vicinity.	Rev. T. Wenzel, Mr. Brenard, Mrs. Wenzel, and Sus. Streeter.	111	69	11						74	77	8	1			12	13	130	89	94	91	404	
Spread over the Peninsula.		182	115									22	13			19	24	182	115	41	37	375	These People live in hamlets. This is only a supposed number, there being no means of gaining a correct account.
No settled place of Residence.														220	85			220	85			305	
Total		1467	1263	155	941	40	40	216	97	493	296	160	129	220	85	136	148	1973	1388	1199	670	5130	

(Signed) C. M'CARTHY.

(F.)

See Appendix (O.)

(G.)

“Whereas, the General Assembly of Virginia have repeatedly sought to obtain an asylum, beyond the limits of the United States, for such persons of colour, as had been, or might be emancipated under the laws of this commonwealth, but have hitherto found all their efforts for the accomplishment of this desirable *purpose*, frustrated, either by the disturbed state of other nations, or domestic causes equally unpropitious to *its* success:

They now avail themselves of a period when peace has healed the wounds of humanity, and the principal nations of Europe have concurred with the government of the United States, in abolishing the African slave trade, (a traffick which this commonwealth, both before and since the revolution, zealously sought to terminate,) to renew this effort, and do therefore *Resolve*, That the executive be requested to correspond with the President of the United States, for the purpose of obtaining a territory upon the coast of Africa, or at some other place, not within any of the states, or territorial governments of the United States, to serve as an asylum for such persons of colour as are now free. and may desire the same; and for those who may be hereafter emancipated, within this commonwealth, and that the Senators and Representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States, be requested to exert their best efforts, to aid the President of the United States in the attainment of the above object: *Provided*, That no contract or arrangement respecting such territory, shall be obligatory on this commonwealth until ratified by the legislature.”

Passed by the House of Delegates, December 15th—by the Senate, with an amendment, December 20th—concurred in by the House of Delegates, December 21st, 1816.